J. L. B.
r'd 1-5-97
s'd 2-5-97

Erzroom. Jan 1st 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have nothing from you to acknowledge. This evening I take a moment to note a marked change in the attitude of the Gregorians here. Today I received about 100 callers, the majority of them being leading men among both the Protestants & Gregorians. I was deeply impressed with the exceedingly cordial feeling manifested, & the expressions of deep gratitude. The manifestation of good will was universal, making due allowance for "orientalism" it was seen to be deep & hearty. The priest who is acting as Arachnot met with an accident some time ago & broke his leg. He can't leave his bed now. In former years he was a bitter opponent. He sent his representatives & a letter. In the letter he addresses me as, "Dear brother in Christ." In the letter he uses the expressions "fellow-worker & brother" & "fellow-officer." Although these expressions are addressed to me as I happen to be here alone they show the revolution through which thought & feeling have passed on the part of the Gregorians. May God give us wisdom & grace for the occasion.

Last Saturday the amnesty took effect and 230 prisoners were released. Two days later 10 more making 240 Armenians. There were about 25 Turks also released. This has caused great joy. But the people refuse to respond in hope, though they try to believe that this may be a step towards better things.

You will have word of Mr Allen's return to Van. It is good to hear of Miss Tracey's good work in Bulgaria.

We wait for the report from the W.B.M.U. of the appts. for 1897.

With kindest regards
W. N. Chambers.

Most cordial New Year greetings to yourself & Mrs. Barton, also to all in the rooms Dr. Smith, Dr. Daniels, Dr Strong &c &c.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-4-97
Ans'd 16

225

Erzroom Jan 4. 97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr Barton.

Your favor of Nov. 20 & 27 with enclosures came by yesterdays post. At the earliest opportunity I will communicate the contents of your letter on absences or furloughs to the stations of the mission. Economy should bear on all points. I called your attention in a recent letter to the question of reinforcements for Erzroom.

I have to report to you that I have just received the final votes on the Mardin School vote. Dr. Dewey receives the unanimous nomination of the mission to the Principalship of the Boy's Evangelical High School at Mardin for a term of four years to end in July 1900.

Our week of prayer meetings have just begun. We hold them only in the morning judging it unwise to hold them in the evening, that the people may not be out on the streets at night.

With kindest regards
Yours sincerely
W. N. Chambers.

J. I. B.
Rec'd 7
Ans'd

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-1-97
Ans'd 3

Erzroom Jan. 9. 1897.

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Your favor of Dec. 18. '96. in this morning. I have but a moment to note one point as the post leaves this afternoon. You give the lump sum of W.B.M. appts. (aside from Eals.) $4410.05. You say nothing about the W.B.M.I. The Erzroom Women's work is under the care of the latter. My query is, is the appropriation of the W.B.M.I. for Erzroom included in this sum? You remember last year they were made separately. The final adjustment of amounts falling back station will have to remain till this point is settled.

Thank you much for your kindness to Mrs. Chambers. I got word to day that she was just out of hospital. I hush she will rapidly recover. She was greatly reassured by your letter. However I charged my Sal. for '96 in full. So that I presume the new arrangement would begin on Jan 1st.

The outlook seems hopeful in this land as far as peace is concerned - i.e. it is doubt-

ful if any violent outbreak would take place. But there can be little if any improvement so long as the present regime is maintained by Europe. It is absolutely impossible for Turks & Armenians to regain the condition they had before the massacre. But it seems to me you can easily & safely plan for reinforcement. You do not think of withdrawal, I do not think we will be forced out. I am glad you saw Hov. Eff. Evidently his mind is setting on life in U.S. He is looking round carefully. He is a valuable man in any church. I hope he may get into good church connections. He is a great friend of the Board & I think would be a good worker in its interests. Do what you can to get him into good connection.

Mr. Bergholz has not gotten his exequatur yet.

Yours sincerely
W. Nelson Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-9-97
Ans'd 16

Erzroom Jan. 25. '97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.

Boston

I am sorry to say that I have not been able to attend to your instructions concerning Mr. Richardson's things till the present. When the Richardsons left what things remained here were in the care of Miss Chamberlin. She left them in charge of Monsieur Effendi Jacobian. He has been sick with very sore eyes. When he was able to get out there was so much to do that the time has passed without the things being sent on. However I looked over them this week with Monsieur Eff. You instruct me that what were boxed were to be sent on & nothing retained. I am unable to distinguish between the boxed & unboxed. They are mixed. The only things that seem to be boxed are a few pamphlets & letters, even they were only piled into a couple of boxes. So I have concluded to wait & ask you for an invoice which you say you have. The things which I find here have no commercial value & I think there are but very few things that even a missionary would care to buy. You need not count them as of any value in the outfit of a new missionary. It seems to me that Mr. Richardson must have forgotten what

he sold of are away. For instead of $58 as the value of the goods you have accepted I doubt if $5 could be realized for what I find here aside from the magazines & letters, which are only of value to Mr. R.

Yours truly

W. Blackamber.

P.S. I am making arrangements for about 30 dispersal on acc. of the 300 £ from the Congregational fund.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-23-97
Ans'd 3-8

228

Erzroom. Jan 26. '97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Barton,

I have nothing unacknowledged from you. I write you particularly to let you know that I am arranging to make a tour to Baibook & Erzingan & Kemakh. I have been able to get the work here into such shape that I think I can safely leave for a month at least. I trust nothing that will suffer by delay will come up in correspondence, for I have no one to whom to leave correspondence in my absence. I have not visited any outstations since before the massacres. I am anxious to do so now, not only on regular missionary work but also in the interests of relief. In Erzingan the union of the two parties is well nigh complete. They have united in requesting the ordination of the preacher. This I will likely arrange for on this visit.

We rejoice to have word from Bitlis that Mr. Cole is improving. We received the impression that he was very seriously ill. The fact that the Dr. orders him home does not surprise us. But what is to become of Bitlis? The suggestion is made that Miss Ph. or Van come to her aid. It seems to me that Dr Raymond

can't spare Mr. Allen. If he does he may follow Mr Cole. I can only see relief from Harpoot in the persons Mr. Browne or Mr. Ellis, unless somebody from the outside should go on to Mr Baird's relief.

I have just taken 20 orphans. The report from Benbooth is that there are 1400 orphans there. I will report to you after my visit.

Word fr. Mrs. Chambers indicates gradual improvement. I hope she will indeed make radical & permanent improvement.

With kind regards.

Yours truly

W.N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd. 3-15-97
Ans'd. 31

229

Erzroom Feb. 20. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton

I take time today only for a line to inform you of my safe return to Erzroom after a three weeks absence. Visited Baibourt, Erzingan & Kemakh & had a good time. I find 50+ letters on my desk awaiting attention, besides scores of questions demanding answer, more particularly concerning orphan relief. How about the question of "supply"? Undoubtedly reinforcements must come. Have them ready with for the first opportunity. I must get W Cple at least to bring on my family if they come this summer & to get dentistry done.

The supply of Bitlis is a serious one. If Dr. R. is left alone again he will in all probability follow Dr Cole. It seems to me better to confine the injury to one station if possible if any station is to be left vacant. Would the effect of drawing Dr Browne away fr. Harpoot be as bad as leaving Bitlis or Van vacant?

I will hope to report you more particularly about my tour next week.

Yours sincerely
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom Feb. 24. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-26-97
Ans'd 31

Dear Dr. Barton.

I have to report to you the following inter-secessional vote; "Whereas, the great strain & overwork in which Mr. Cole has been engaged for the last two years in connection with the Relief work finds him run down to a degree necessitating a long needed change & rest.

Voted, Therefore that this mission with the approval of the Prudential Com. grant him permission to return to the United States during the coming spring. Praying that health & strength may be given him & that the Lord of missions return him safe again in his own good time

Bitlis Jan 9. 1897.

This vote receives the indorsement of the mission.

W. N. Chambers
Act. Sec.

P.S. A note has been started assigning Mr. Allen to Bitlis as temporary supply. This however does not find indorsement because of the need of Mr Allen at Van. Why should not Mr. Browne or Mr Ellis go over to Bitlis? A.L.

will appear to be a very great misfortune to allow Bittis to be vacant at this time.

There is also a vote in circulation asking leave of absence for Dr. Dewey. It has so far received 7 votes — Bittis & Van yet to be heard from.

W. H. C.

Feb 25.

Yours of Feb 5th just at hand. I have done what I could to urge Mr. Baird to delay departure from Bittis & for Mr Browne or Mr. Ellis bros. Mr. Cole proposes to leave in April via Mardin — Mr Baird to accompany him. Mr. Allen is off in Persia again to purchase oxen for the villagers. He went at Col. Williams request.

Success to your plan to get John W. Foster to Cple. That promises to be a magnificent move.

A patrol in the city — the first since the autumn of '95 has caused no little nervousness. The Cretan news also. The A's. are very nervous & the T's. uneasy. However we do not seem to dread massacre or even very great turmoil. I trust our feelings are well founded. The Gov. & Commandant inspire considerable confidence.

Yours W. H. C.

No. letters fr. Bittis for 3 weeks — no definite word. However the country in that direction seems to be quiet.

L. B.
4-5-97

Erzroum. March 1. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

I have already informed you of my safe return from my tour to Baiboot, Erzingan & Kemakh. I traveled 323 miles - 100 by sleigh & the remainder on horseback. I crossed four high mountains, all noted for their storms - the highest point in the road was 8000 feet. The snow was deep & the weather cold. Yet with the exception of two days I had what would be called in this country a good journey. One of the hard days we crossed one mountain in a blizzard & had to break the road through deep snow a part of the way. Considering the cold winter season, the deep snow, the numerous mountains, I had a most comfortable journey. Everywhere the Turkish officials were polite and obliging, some of them extremely so. I experienced no difficulty in this direction, while on the contrary every facility was afforded me. With some of the newer appointments I was favourably impressed. They manifested a real desire for the betterment of the country, & realize the appalling injury that has fallen on the country. But, though their efforts secures

a medium of respite for the Christians for the present, the governmental system has become such that it becomes impossible for one, or even one hundred well meaning men to bring about any radical or any permanent change.

The first place I visited was the city of Baibourt. This city and district suffered much more than any other district in this province. A thousand persons are known to have been killed, & about the same number are missing. In the city of Baibourt 232 orphans between the age of 1 & 12 are registered. In the village there are more than a thousand of the same class. Not having received a credit for orphan work at the time of my visit I could not make any special arrangements. I am now in correspondence with the efficient relief Commission on that subject. The Christians of the city controlled most of the trade. The numerous shops, formerly in the hands of Armenians, are now for the most part occupied by Moslems. There is no industry and am endeavouring to introduce weaving to afford employment for the widows. At the present time a daily ~~dole~~ ration of bread is issued to 400 destitute persons. We judge that this ration should be continued till the coming harvest.

Bairbook is an important center. But no evangelical work has been established in it. It has been visited at various times ~~when the~~ by wanglists & colporters at which time the people have manifested a decidedly hostile attitude. This time however I was entertained as guest for two days at the house of the leading Armenian notables, who was most kind in his hospitality. At the time of the massacre his house, ~~was~~ was emptied of everything excepting a few pieces of broken furniture. It is a fine house & had been well furnished. My host & his brother - they live together - had been in prison for eight months with 25 other notables. They had been released at the time of the general amnesty. They had been unable to do much in refurnishing the house, or re-establishing their work. In response to my letter of acknowledgment of hospitality they wrote; "The service which we rendered you under our roof was not in accordance with our desire, nor was unsuitable to you. God grant that we may be permitted to render you a fitting service. You would have made us very glad had you returned this way." While there I had most pleasant & I trust profitable intercourse with the Vartabed, priests & leading notables. On Sunday evening I went to the Gregorian church. The Vartabed took occasion to make an address & expressed on the part of the people the deepest gratitude for the Christian sympathy & assistance ren-

dared by the "brethren" of America & England. He spoke of the grace of Christ & power of the gospel as being the real source of the wonderful manifestation of Christian brotherly love & sympathy. He remarked that America had no personal interest in this land. They did not know the Armenians and were under no obligations to them. "Why then stretch forth a helping hand in such liberal generosity? The grace & power of the gospel had led those "brethren" on the other side of the world to realize the love of the Blessed Saviour. In service to Him they have through God saved the Armenian people who were on the brink of destruction". He expressed lively satisfaction at the presence of the "honorable foreign brother". "The children of watched Armenia could not repay their brethren over the sea. They could not give expression to their heartfelt gratitude. They can only pray that long life, prosperity & the choicest blessings of the Eternal God may be their portion in rich abundance". The response of the hearty amen of the people seemed to increase in volume as it reechoed amongst the pillars of their beloved sanctuary, that had been so wantonly desecrated & despoiled. I was deeply impressed with the earnest words of the preacher & the hearty response of the people".

After leaving Baibourt I spent the first night at the village of Pulour. This village is situated about 25 miles west of Baibourt & has 260 Turkish & 60 Armenian houses. I have seldom been at such a loss for words of cheer & hope as I was that night. My host was an old grey headed man. He was unwell. He repeatedly gave expression to his regret that he was unable to offer me suitable entertainment. His house was standing & was at my service, but it was empty. A number of neighbors came in to offer welcome. But as I studied their faces I read all that hopelessness had taken fast hold of their hearts. In the massacre 52 of their able bodied men - nearly one man ~~from~~ for each family - were cruelly massacred. The others then professed Mohammedanism & were with the women & children taken to the houses of the Turks. There they remained for twenty days, during which time their property was in the hands of the Turks. The houses & stables & granaries were emptied. At the end of 20 days they were allowed to return to their empty homes. They received assistance & lived through the spring. They reverted to Christianity. They had put in some autumn seed before the massacre. In the spring they put forth every effort to sow

By the most strenuous efforts they were able to reap a harvest that would in ordinary years have been a competence. But as harvest finished the tax collectors came & collected from those 60 families of Armenians nearly $800. To do this they had sold their harvest, the few animals that some of them had been able to secure & much of the land. This last was sold at about one quarter its value. They had worked for a year heroically, & found themselves at the close of it as poorly provided for & more hopeless than after the massacre. Their Turkish neighbors were insolent, overbearing & threatening. There was no indication that their lives were safe for a day. There was nothing to show that what they had endured the past year would not be their portion the coming year. They were in distress & distribution. The strongest words of hope could not arouse them from their hopeless lethargy. I wrote to the Relief Commission in Baibook. They answered; "Many of our villages are in the same condition as Rutoor. We appeal to your benevolence."

"The city of Erzingan suffered much less than Baibook. The shops were all plundered - only 100 persons killed. None of the houses were touched. Some of the villages suffered badly. The cotton weaving industry has been a great help to both city and

villages. Scores & hundreds of looms are in operation so that we hope that the need of relief may soon be past. Here our Gregorian brethren were most cordial & earnest in their expressions of gratitude. A deputation waited on me to express on the part of the people the deep gratitude they felt for the assistance rendered. They presented the cases of two villages as worthy of assistance for rebuilding their ruined houses. One of these villages had been entirely destroyed & the inhabitants were residing in Erzegan city. Not a building remained in tact & the people were unable to build even huts. In the the other village the slaughter was great & the half of the buildings were destroyed. Those who have been left houseless need assistance to put up houses sufficient for protection. Under favouring circumstances Erzegan city & district will have so far recovered the coming spring as to need no more assistance. I am very glad to say that the relations between the Gregorian & Protestant communities are very cordial."

I found the Evangelical Community in a fairly encouraging condition. You remember there had been a division in the church some years ago. This breach has been well nigh healed. The two sections had united,

a church committee had been elected consisting of members from both parties & a request had been received for the ordination of the preacher. On investigation I found that the circumstances were not such as to warrant the making arrangements for the ordination. Both people & preacher acquiesced in this. The need of a pastor for the place is most pressing & the work most promising. For the first time since the union the sacrament was dispensed. This was a solemn occasion. The chapel was crowded. The whole audience was intensely interested in the whole service. The people have done well in the way of contributions for the support their work & they have carried on their schools in a creditable manner. I think my visit had a good effect. But the work there will not be thoroughly progressive till there is a settled pastor.

I found the brethren of the Kamatch church, as well as all the people, in a half dazed state. There was little love of life in the district at the time of the massacre. But the reign of terror had left a terrible impression on the people. I was the first person from the outside world they had seen & their joy was almost unbounded. My great fear was that my visit might inspire them with greater hope than the circumstances warranted.

This was the first tour I had been able to make since the massacre. Everywhere I found the Armenians full of gratitude for the large hearted benevolence ~~which~~ of Christian friends in the occident. That benevolence has accomplished a work concerning which the contributors may well feel a hearty satisfaction. It has indeed saved the Armenian people.

I was a satisfaction to me to experience the cordial relations between Gregorians & Protestants. I feel convinced that the Armenians have obtained a very much clearer conception of the spirit of Protestantism. They note the fact that it has been Protestant Christendom that has opened its hand in disinterested benevolence. They look on Protestantism in a different light. As the preacher said in Baibourt they realize that that benevolence has been inspired by the spirit of the Gospel. However it does not follow that the Armenians are becoming Protestant. As far as I know the Protestant communities have not been increased by a single accession because of this relief work. There are no bread ticket Protestants. This affords peculiar satisfaction, for it demonstrates the purely Christian character of the work which fact will not be without its due influence. 7

The added work of the Orphan asylum here, keeps me very busy. I feel my work getting a bit behind. I should have written this report two weeks ago, but it has been impossible. You will realize the very great necessity of reinforcements here. I find no respite from 8 A.M. till 11 P.M. It is simply impossible for me to do the work as it ought to be done. As such I cannot touch some things that ought to be done. Lady missionaries ought to be here. Miss Knapp has done well, but she can no more do all that is necessary in that department than I can in mine.

The city was a little startled yesterday by the arrest of a leading Turkish official, & also a leading Armenian, & 10 or a dozen other Turks. There is much expectation these days. However the situation here has a peaceful appearance.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

W. H. Chambers.

J. L. B.,
Rec'd 3-29-97
Ans'd 31

Erzroom. March 8. 1897

Rev. J. L. Barton,

I think I reported to you the intercessional votes in re. Mr. Leole's furlough & also Dr. Mrs. Dwight's furlough. The last returns on the latter are in. Both votes secure the endorsement of the mission. The vote for the temporary transfer of Mr. Allen from Van to Bitlis does not receive the endorsement of the mission. Mardin & Bitlis vote in favor, Erzroom & Van in negative - Harpoot does not vote.

We received word that Mr. Ellis was ready to go to Bitlis. In that way the question would have been settled. But a few days later we received news of the death of Mr. Ellis. How very sad it appears to us that he should be cut off having rendered such a short term of service. I never had the pleasure of his acquaintance, or correspondence with him. May God so bless his short service as to make it very fruitful & comfort his sorrowing friends.

The Bitlis question is up again. Evidently Mr. Leole ought to be relieved. But who can do it?

With kind regards
Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd 4-22-97

Groom. March 13 '97.

Dear Dr Barton

The supply of Bitis is a perplexing question. I have written Mardin today suggesting that in view of the death of Mr. Ellis, & the need at Bitis, ~~that~~ Mr. Dewey postpone his furlough & spend two or three mos. in Bitis till it is seen what can be done. I doubt if that may be, but there is no one else but Mr Browne. That would leave Hpt. very short of. However possibly the German in Harpoot might help out for the summer.

I can think of nothing else than to form a Com. in Bitis of two or three men to look after things.

No post in from Bitis or Van. Roads bad & a storm on.

Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-12-97
Ans'd 22

Erzroom. March 20. '97.

J. L. Barton D.D.
Congregational House
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton,

I enclose two copies of a short report on orphan work here. To save much writing may I ask you to hand one to the Congregationalist with my most hearty thanks for the credit of £200. I hope to give more detailed report of the internal arrangements for the orphans later. I regret greatly this delay. But as you know I am alone & the work on hand is extensive & varied.

The Patriarch has published in "Puzantion" a note calling attention to the orphan work. He enjoins the local arachnots to look into the matter & be careful that the children of the Armenian church may not be lost to that church. This is a very natural thing. He cannot be indifferent to the question. Therefore some understanding with him would be most advisable. Here we send the orphans twice a week to the Gregorian church. I do not know what is being done in that respect in other places. It is only right that the question should be carefully be considered. Possibly the brethren in Cyprus.

I called on the Vali the other day with Mr Graner. He expressed his interest in the Orphan work. He however said that injudicious & exaggerated statements made in America only served to call the attention of Govt. to the matter in such a way that obstacles might arise. He characterized as a very great exaggeration the statement that there were 50,000 orphans in the country. However I think we at least partially convinced him that the figure was rather below than above the truth. Certainly it is irritating to the officials to hear these things, more particularly as many of them feel the stigma of the whole condition. I merely mention these things to show that the movement is attracting wide attention. It will be subjected to much fire. We have confidence that all friends of the movement ~~may~~ will be ready to support it in any way that circumstances may demand.

Last letters fr. Van Billis reported there as usual. Mr. Leale is perplexed. In truth this is a perplexing question. If a supply cannot be found it seems to me that he should make arrangements for a native Com. to oversee what work there can be done.

Kindest regards

W. H. Chambers.

J. L. B.
d 4-20-97
2
d

235

Erzroom March 26. 1897.

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr Barton.

I have just received a letter from Mrs Chambers enclosing a note from Dr. Weir Mitchel of Philadelphia in which he gives his professional opinion. The original is with Mrs. Chambers. Possibly she has forwarded to you. She sent me a copy. It is both encouraging & distressing & withal most perplexing under the circumstances. How very true it is "Man proposes, but God disposes". I tried my best to get away from Erzroom for various reasons which were stated at the time. One of those reasons was the anxiety caused me by the state of Mrs Chambers' health which was evidently being affected as I feared it was, & about which I was anxious to get professional opinion. Not only have the other reasons for my withdrawal disappeared, but the circumstances have so changed that my withdrawal would seem be quite undesirable. I was anxious to leave then & could not. Now I am anxious to remain & continue this work, & it seems I must not. The reason that I mentioned then as a possible one for withdrawal

now forces itself forward in a definite way on startling aspect. And it is much perplexing. Dr. Mitchel's note is of no uncertain sound. While I greatly feared it was coming, Mrs Chambers reports of herself gave me great encouragement to think it might not. The note is as follows:- "I write only to say that Mrs. Chambers is much better.

I think Ezroom is a high level both seriously against the chances of complete return to health, in any case like that of your wife.

Either you should be on a lower level, or she contented to dwell apart from you for your work for a time, as the needed length of which no man can be sure. She will always be more or less nervous. She will have her best chances at some elevation lower than Ezroom.

Nor can I omit to state that after a woman has been on the verge of perilous hysteria the place of her trial is no place for her. It has seemed to me a duty to state to you my opinion.

(Signed) Weir Mitchel."

The notable things in this note are, 1. Mrs Chambers "has been on the verge of perilous hysteria". 2. She is "much better" - evidently in a hopeful way to great improvement. 3. Ezroom elevation, & circumstances & surroundings

will more than likely nullify that improvement.
4. "Her best chances" will be "at some elevation lower than Egyroom."

The suggestions are 1. change to a lower level or 2. separation for an indefinite period.

This is all most startlingly definite. The question is what is to be done? Quite probably you may have had the question already under consideration, & may have formed some definite opinion.

I will note two or three things as they appear to me. 1. The Doctor's opinion I presume decides the question of Mrs Chamberlin return to Egyroom. I need not take time to express my very great disappointment & regret at this. However the preservation of what restored health she has been able to secure is of too great moment to the world, to myself & our children to warrant the risk of loosing it again.

2. The question of removal therefore presents itself. But the question is where. There are other places to be filled. But the circumstances of any place in the interior are not such as to afford favorable conditions as health results. Even with improved conditions the present distress will continue for long & will be a nervously exhausting burden to any one, more particularly to a nervous

person. The places offering favourable conditions, if they can be found in this country, are Constantinople & Smyrna. They are both at sea level & Mrs. Chambers has always enjoyed C'ple. However there are the exigencies of the work to be considered. Is another man needed in either of those places, & how can Erzroom be supplied?

This brings up the 3rd question, that of our living apart for a time. This is in my mind a very serious question. A year of it becomes endurable in the hope of reunion at the end of that time. It is a thing to be avoided if it possible can be. I have previously felt the lack of Mrs Chambers' help and council, possibly I have felt this more that I would had I had a missionary associate. I had looked forward to the return of my family in late August or early September. I must confess that the prospect of longer separation is quite depressing. On the other hand this long separation unsettled condition, away from home & home comforts & privileges - pleasant though visiting with friends may be - will not conduce in the best way to her improvement in health. Zoë. The care of the children, the expensive living &c will be heavy burdens to her having to account all that responsibility alone.

I wonder what position you, or rather the C.P. has taken in reference to reinforcement. If you are making, or have made plans for reinforcement & you have a man ready I would suggest that he come at once. Then if our place of work & residence can be decided, if it is outside of this troubled zone, Mrs Chambers could make her plans for removal their this fall. Then I could remain here till a new comer should get the work in hand leaving in the fall or any time in the winter that might be deemed best, or even in the spring. Otherwise the change would have to be postponed for a whole year which I hope may be avoided.

Otherwise the only way I can see is for my family to settle down for a year, which means a year & a half. I earnestly trust the Lord will not subject us to this trial. If that is his will he will give grace to endure. But is our cup of trial not already full enough?

I write you this that you know how the question lies in my mind in the thought it may be of service in your consideration of the question. One's first impulse is to be a reunited family. But that is impossible for some months at least.

I feel free to mention Constantinople or Smyrna because of the action of the Board. Brethren will thus want of my resignation.

I am sure you will give this your best consideration. Mrs. Chambers has expressed herself as feeling able to return to Erzroom & anxious to do so at the earliest possible moment. But Dr. Mitchell's opinion would seem to put that out of the question. I am most anxious to do what may be considered the best. The work here is most promising. But that may be carried on by another person just as well. I trust I may soon hear from you as to the course that seems best to the Bd. May the Lord give us all the grace of wisdom & patience.

The Vali just came & looked over the orphan arrangements. He seemed well pleased. The Am. & Eng. Consuls inspected the arrangements & expressed themselves as very well pleased.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Nov. 26. '97

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-20-97
Ans'd 22

Erzroom. March 30. 1897

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Your favor of March 9th came to hand this morning. You would have received my report on Mr. Cole's & Dr. Dewey's furlough vote. Both were endorsed by the mission. Now that permission is granted it is impossible to see how they will get away. Mr. Cole proposes to hang on even in spite of the Dr's. recommendation. I suggested that Dr. Dewey should make his plans at once for vacation & then go to Bitlis for a couple of months. There are many there who speak English & he could use an interpreter. Dr. Raynolds suggests that Mr Edward Allen should come out. How about the Board resolution on sustenance of Turkish missions & the question of reinforcement?

Have you received the note in which Dr. Mitchel expressed his professional opinion concerning Mrs. Chambers? Mrs. Chambers writes me that a return to Erzroom - at least for a time - notwithstanding the Dr's. opinion, would seem much easier than to spend a year alone

in America: I can thoroughly appreciate her feelings. "Living in boxes" & boarding &c. the expense & the struggle to square a/c's. &c. will be most trying to her & possibly may retard her nervous tone very much. However I dread more the thought of what may be the result of her return here. This is twice she has nearly become invalided. The first time she was on the verge of "nervous prostration", this time on the verge of "perilous hysteria". It seems to me she should not return to Syroom, or to any place in the interior.

I am glad you could see Mrs Chambers. She enjoyed your short call greatly. She has evidently improved very much, & that is what makes Dr. M's. opinion more startling.

The situation here seems quiet. But the reports from Local &c. are very discouraging. The Great Powers do not make an honorable record in the Cretan difficulty from whatever side the question is examined. There is little dependence to be placed on them or hope to be centered in them. The Christian (the Great Powers) has made no more honorable record than the Moslem.

I think you did well to call attention to reports to Mr Bergholtz.

With kindest regards

W. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-3-97
Ans'd

Erzroom. April 10. 97.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton,

I enclose you a general report of Relief work for 5 mos. ending March 31. accompanied with P.S. of later date.

For some days the city & in fact the whole province have been very panicky. The T.s. seem to be suddenly desperate. They will send the As. to perdition & then follow. The As. are sick with fright. This is having a bad effect. However I think this province is safe, if this most unnatural condition does not continue. No posts fr. Bitlis & Van. There are rumors about them & also Moush. But we do not credit the rumors. There is panick all through the country & wild rumors.

We hear that Cple U.S. Legation is to be an Embassy. Gen O. O. Howard's name mentioned. Are we to have that! That would be splendid indeed!

Mr. Baird gives it as his opinion that Mr. Knapp should not return to ~~Bag~~ Bitlis. That calls up to mind my suggestion that he might

come here with a new man from America this place might be manned & I released if I can go to C'ple. or Smyrna. The more I think of it the stronger I feel that Mrs. Chambers should not come into to the interior. So our going to Bitlis or even to Harpoot I do not think should be considered. Dr. Grossman in conversation gave it as his opinion that this place was too severe on Mrs. Chambers nerves. There is another question that appeals very strongly to me. Kate is an exceedingly nervous child & I would be glad indeed to have the opportunity of affording her a chance to grow out of it. It is sad to me to think of her growing up to woman hood without the opportunity of developing nervous tone. I realize that this work is of very great importance & must be considered & I am perfectly ready to make reasonable sacrifices for it. But if seems to me arrangements can be made for it, that would release me.

May I urge again the need of at least three new men, one for here, one for Bitlis & one for Harpoot.

Yours sincerely

W. H. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Ans'd 5-17-97
Ans'd 22

Erzroom. April. 23. '97

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have nothing from you for a considerable time. I have no doubt you are very busy as well as a good deal absent from your desk. It will soon be time to hear from you as to the question about myself & family I sent you some time ago. Belated mails fr. Bitlis of April 3rd report Mr. Cole as well at that time. He proposes that Mr. Knapp go at once to Harpoot & Mr. Browne to Bitlis. Mr. Browne might go, but I wonder if Mr K. could go to Hpt. Dr. Raynolds was well on April 11th, but I presume you get his circular letters.

My present writing is to bring up a point or two in regard to the supply of Erzroom. Both the consuls take a deep interest in the question now that the possibility of any transfer is up. Both are pleased to express regret on this account, but look on it as rather a foregone conclusion, expressing the opinion that it would be ill advised for my wife & Kate to return here on account of climate. I am glad to say that both men are in most cordial

sympathy with me & this work. I have found great assistance in consultation with them even about affairs of purely missionary interest. Mr Berkholz is a Methodist so far as he has church connection. He is thoroughly American & is jealous for the prosperity & good name of everything America. Mr. Graves is what the English Episcopalians would call a churchman. ~~though~~ His father is a Bishop in Ireland. Both these men have expressed their views as to the supply of Erzroom in case I should leave. It is at least a satisfaction to have such men so interested as to not only express their views, but to look forward with a certain anxiety & solicitude to the quality of the mission circle. They both have possibly an exaggerated idea of the great importance of Erzroom as a mission center & hence that it should be <u>well</u> manned. I give you their views definitely on some points.

1. Contrary to my proposition already made by you, they both think that it would not be best for Mr. Knapp to come here to settle, more particularly if there was not an older man to take, at least the appearance of first responsibility. It is a fact, whether Mr. K. was blameable to any degree or not, that the Turkish officials consider him blameworthy & would look on him with suspicion & so to a great extent

handicap him & so retard our work. Besides they both have conceived the idea that Mr. K. has been a bit injudicious, & that now he has been under this cloud he ought to be very careful in both his place of work & manner of work also. I confess that the expression of these opinions give me pause in my thought that Mr. Knapp might come to Erzroom with a new recruit carry on this work. Mr. K. will undoubtedly develop with experience, but he is under the misfortune of being under a cloud. Great care is advisable till that cloud passes.

2 They also urge an experienced man for this station to take lead in the work & at least two recruits. Mr. Bergholz not knowing any of our missionary brethren makes no suggestion. Mr. Graves asks why Mr. Macallum might not return. He was here formerly & did good work; with his extra experience in Marash he would do fine work here again. Failing him he would urge Mr. McNaughton who came here to assist me a year ago. I would heartily endorse either of these men. I have never ceased to regret Mr Macallum's transfer. I give you these opinion. In conversation the fact came forward that both of these brethren were Canadians. Mr Graves remarked that that fact had its advantage. He & Mr Bergholz have been on the most cordial relations

& both consuls would have official an interest, the one for the person & the other for the work of the missionary.

While on this subject I would again urge the urgent need of immediate supply. To day we had a meeting of Relief Commission to consider the orphan work. The "Friends of Armenia" have gotten into communication with us. They ask if help is needed, offering to send. I stated in the meeting that I had urged the need of supply & I hoped that reinforcements would be forthcoming this year, both male & female missionaries. I represented that if the Board sent reinforcements it would keep the work all under one organization & to that extent at least avoid difficulty. At the same time the orphan fund being very limited it would make a heavy drain on it to support a foreign worker so far curtail the extent of the work. Both the other members endorsed that view & it was decided not to decide on any call for such help fr. "Friends of Armenia" till we heard from you as to whether we can hope for recruits fr. America.

Now let us have these recruits. If Miss Knapp remains here, I hope she may, we need two other ladies - must have them.

Hoping to have favourable news fr. you soon

Yours truly W. K. Chambers.

P.S. April 24. Since writing this your favor of April 1st is at hand. It came in yesterday. Three weeks to-day. In fact the envelope shows it was posted on the 2nd making the trip here in just three weeks. Mrs. Chambers has received replies from me in just six weeks. I am delighted to hear of your searching for two new families for E.T.M. If I leave, send the Canadian here, while I would not object to have him as an associate if I remain. But you do not speak of lady missionaries. Don't overlook this. If the "Friends of Armenia" can send, the Board can. I think you are right in your thought that with a Canadian the British Govt. would have official interest in the question if Russia occupies. In passing let me say, to show the animus of Rus. officials towards missionaries, the Russian here who is very friendly with us personally, indicates that his good will towards us is in spite of our being missionaries - those showing his animus which is very hostile towards missionaries. However I have a strong feeling that this work is going to be permanent. We must plan for that.

We were pleased to-day to hear of James B. Angell's appointment to Cⓟple. We hope he comes as ambassador.

Somehow or other we do not seem to have

much hope of much result from the hostilities between Greece & Turkey. May God hasten the end, & defend the right.

The other day I received a note from the Arachnoïti vicar conveying the Patriarch's commands that the orphans should attend church & that they should have a priest as religious instructor. I replied to the effect that I was ready to confer, but I would hold myself free to make any arrangements that seemed best. As I had arranged for the children to attend church there was no need of saying anything about it, & I could not arrange for instruction by a priest. I allowed the orphans to go to confessional & communion. I hope I am not wrong, but I feel that the orphans should be allowed to attend church services. Poor things, they little know what jealousies they are causing! ~~Many~~ Some of the Gregorians used to adhere to my position.

Yours

W. U. C.

J. L. B.
5-27-97
27

Ennevoan. April 30. '97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I enclose a copy of a letter written by R. W. Graves Esq the Eng. Consul here, & President of the A. R. Fund. here. It will give you an outline for orphan work. The details of the work are getting into more definite shape in my mind she gives the outlines as I gave them to him with his observations. You are at liberty to make use of this for publication for the information of the public.

I have had a conversation with Miss Knapp. I invite her to remain here for another year at least. I will write Miss Dax soon as I hear I will start a vote to that effect. She has done good work & will do better as she gets more experience. If the Eng ladies return they can manage Miss for a year, If they cant return neither can Miss K. go on. But I hope a lady missionary will come also.

I have just received word of a gift of £500 from a lady in Dublin for orphan work & general relief here. This is a big sum from

one individual.

The situation here is very quiet. The war has killed all business & the distress is on the increase - the distress of living.

I hope soon to hear from you your cogitations on Dr. Mitchel's opinion & the new phase it will give to our plans.

Kind regards

W. H. Chambers.

Will you please show a copy of Mr Graves letter to the Congregationalists.

ERZEROUM ORPHANS.

I regret exceedingly the delay in reporting upon Orphan work in Erzeroum. Being without an associate, and having been absent on a tour to Baiburt and Erzingan during the month of February, I found on my return that work had accumulated to such an extent that it has been impossible to report earlier. I trust the delay will have no harmful effect. The Orphan work alone is sufficient to absorb the attention of one person, not only in its extent, but also in its importance and in the care that ought to be bestowed upon it.

On receipt of the first credit of L. T. 300 (Congregationalist fund) we began to make arrangements. We have considerable room in the mission buildings, and have accepted 60 orphans, of whom 24 are boys. One interesting case was brought to us on a cold day in early March. Why his feet were not frozen is a marvel to me, for they were quite bare and red as beets and swollen. In fact his rags scarce served to cover his body. It is needless to multiply the sad stories. I will mention but one or two. Little Hagopig's parents were natives of Arabkir, both were killed, and their house burned; the boy found refuge with an aunt whose husband was in Erzeroum at the time. Their house also was plundered and burned in Arabkir. The uncle called his wife and nephew to Erzeroum. He himself died shortly after his wife's arrival. He had been suffering from the effects of terror ever since those terrible days, and finally succumbed to it. He left his wife and little nephew in the care of his aged mother. She however died a few weeks after her son; then Hagopig was left with his aunt in absolute destitution in a strange city and almost friendless. He seems to be happy in his new surroundings. The father of one girl was last heard of in Constantinople some time before the first troubles there. The mother was left in poverty. About three months after the Erzeroum troubles she was taken with typhoid fever, and one night in her delirium she fled from the house: the next morning she was found dead in the stone water-trough, about a quarter of a mile from the house. As has been remarked in so many reports, the change from dirt and rags to cleanliness and new clothes makes marvellous transformations in the appearance of these children. It is worth the trouble to see their happy faces. In making selection, preference is given to those who are entirely orphaned and destitute. Applications are very numerous, and the condition of all is sad in the extreme. To take an example at random,—here is a woman whose husband was killed, house and shop plundered. She has five children, the eldest 12 years old. She is able-bodied, and finds a little work here and there—scarcely sufficient to provide a little light and fuel. She is on the relief list. She begs and pleads that at least one of her girls may be taken into the orphanage that her own burden may be lightened by that much, and that the child may enjoy the blessings, physical, mental, and moral, accruing from it,—"that she may become a woman in the future," that is, that she may be educated and know something and be of some use in the world.

The district that suffered most in this province was the Baiburt district. The Armenian population of the city is not large; there are however 232 orphans between the ages of 1 and 12, all in destitution. In the surrounding villages there are over 1000, making about 1400 orphans in the Baiburt district alone. In the village of Ksantal, of less than 100 houses, there are over 300 orphans. We estimate that there are from 2000 to 3000 orphans in the Erzeroum province, the great majority of whom are in very destitute circumstances. During this winter our general relief work has been mainly directed to the relief of the

distress of these orphans and their widowed mothers. We have moved slowly in the matter of collecting orphans into the house of refuge. The cold weather and mountainous condition of the country have been great obstacles. But we need a larger sum than we have already received in order to push the work as it ought to be pushed. The estimate of $1 a month is far too low. At least double that, and more probably treble that, will be necessary to cover all the expenses of a child for a month. If we count $2.50 a month as an average expenditure, we will need $1500 for the year — the expense of these 60 orphans. We ought to take in at least 200 orphans of these 3000. Besides this, the work should be a permanent work for at least 5 years. Some of the children may find places in a couple of years. The mothers of some may be able to improve their condition so as to provide homes again for their children. But these are remote possibilities; the children having been once received, they become our wards for at least five years. This work is a benevolence of prime, present importance. We look in confidence to our friends that work already undertaken with so much encouragement may be carried on to completion.

Yours in the Lord's name,
W. N. CHAMBERS.

Armenian Orphans
Rec'd May 7. 1897.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 6-21-97
Ans'd 7-8

Ezroom. May. 19. 97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Your favor of April 22. is at hand. I rejoice greatly at the announcement of the appointment of Mr. Ashdown to the E. T. M. If he is there please extend to him my hearty salutations. I will be glad indeed to welcome him thus far on the way. I hope to hear of his departure & plans in the near future, so that I may be able to render what assistance I can for his journey inland. I presume little if any opposition will be made by any in the mission to his going directly to Bitlis, for the simple reason that no one can propose any thing to take the place of that arrangement. I can't help but think however, if such a man as Dr. Dewey considered it an advisable to go to Bitlis because he was a foreign speech, therefore it would be for him to go, what will Mr Ashdown do? It will be a much trying position for him without experience or language. I wond judge fr. a remark in a late letter from Mr. Cole that possibly Mr. Crawford might be prevailed on to help out. I understand

that he was looking forward to a furlough on Mr. Parmelee's return. If that is not preceding might he not be available for service at least for a time in E. T. W.? I have only met Mr. Crawford two or three times & so cannot say that I am acquainted with him very much. I merely call your attention to the thought. Might he not serve either in Erzroom or Bitlis. If he should go to Bitlis then I would suggest that Mr. Ashdown remain in Erzroom. In response to your question I cannot think of anyone else aside from what I have already said in previous letters. I heartily wish Mr. Macallum would return to Erzroom.

I think I wrote you of the idea of Mr. Knapp's coming to Erzroom, & the objection made by Mr Graves. Mr. Graves opinion is based on general principles. If Mr. Crawford could supply Bitlis till Mr. Leale returned, I think Mr Knapp & Mr. Ashdown could take up Erzroom work together. (see 5th page)

Thank you for your cordial words of sympathy & appreciation. As I said in a previous letter I see nothing possible but to remain till supply is on the ground. That may be next autumn winter or spring. I do not want to see Erzroom left unoccupied. However I am made more

desirous of as speedy solution as possible by reason of Mrs. Chambers' letters. She has contemplated a separation from home prolonged to the autumn as a probability. But she says that she feels that it would be better to run the risk of her health next winter here, than to prolong the separation for another year. I would be glad to have her come here for two or three months, but with the Dr's. clear cut opinion against deprecate an extended stay here. At the same time I feel strongly extended stay in America deprived of the comforts of her own home will be by no means beneficial to Mrs. Chambers. So, in case a transfer becomes impossible, the choice of two evils remains, remaining in America, or coming here for the winter. As you suggest, the passing of summer may bring solution. We therefore must wait in patience for the opening of the way. I appreciate the added burden & perplexity that this brings upon you & the friends at the rooms. But the whole situation is so perplexing that one hardly knows what to say. The need of reinforcement in ~~all~~ these three stations is very great. I most earnestly hope that the man coming here will be an expert educator. You remember

we have the Samaritan school here. Though we cannot compete with it we may give just as good an education - more particularly as we have the orphans on hand. Do not allow the thought that Harpoot needs a strong man for the college effect the choice of the very best man possible for her. Dr. Gates is there to look after the college. Send the best man you can find.

We have just heard (Wednesday 19th) of the armistice. This may bring things to a head soon now & the country settle down to something favourable. It is time indeed that something of the sort showed be. It is to be hoped that Mr. Angell will soon be on hand. There has been some stories about that Mr. Berkholz reported 50000 orphans - greatly exaggerating the truth. This is supposed to be dangerous to the Turks. It may possibly be used as an objection to the granting of an exequatur. There is no ground on which to base the charge or objection. It is a fact however that Mr Berkholz is still waiting for his exequatur.

Since writing the above I have had a conversation with Mr Graves in which the question of Mr. Knapp's coming to Erzroom entered. I remarked to him that Mr. K. would have to live down suspicion wherever he went & why not here. The reply was to the effect that in such a place as this he would be subjected to police supervision & suspicion. The Vali is a good man, but is a man of strong opinions, & prejudices. Where you have his confidence he is very nice, but when his suspicions are once aroused he is very vigorous. So that Mr. K's position would be an exceedingly difficult one & one in which it would be impossible to take charge of this work to advantage. An alderman, ~~to whom~~ no such suspicion attaches would be able to shield Mr. K. somewhat. Mr. Graves opinion is a very safe opinion - well founded. However you will have to consider what action Mr. Angell takes & the attitude assumed by the Govt. when Mr. K's. case comes up for settlement.

the more I think of it the more I feel that Mr. Ashdown's going to Bitlis to relieve Mr. Cole is too difficult a work for him. He ought not to be overburdened & it will be impossible for him to do that work any way.

Yours truly
W. U. Chambers.

Cayroon, May 19, 97

J. L. B. Rec'd. 7-1-97. Ans'd. 7-7

Erzroom May 31. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have nothing from you to acknowledge. A note fr. Dr. Barnum indicates that they understand that Mr. Ashdown was appointed with Harpoot in view as "successor to Mr. Ellis". I have no knowledge on what that understanding is based. However it had quite a depressing effect on me for a time. It has been acknowledged all along that Erzroom has prior claim to reinforcement. I cannot see for a moment that the changed conditions at Harpoot can in any way set aside that prior claim. There are large interests centering at Harpoot, but there are three missionaries with several lady missionaries, besides the three Germans rendering very efficient service. The interests centering in Erzroom are by no means small. I do not hesitate to say that the force at Harpoot is very much more adequate for the work there, than the force here is for the work here. That is to say the burden of larger Harpoot work is not as heavy on the

larger force there than the burden of this smaller Erzroom work is on Miss Knapp & myself. I have yielded the prior claim to Bitlis on account of Mr. Cole's illness, but I cannot willingly yield it to any other station. The need of reinforcement in Erzroom is undoubtedly greater than in Harpoot. Erzroom has the right of way, & the greater need. This is emphasized by the fact that Mrs. Chambers cannot return. Undoubtedly Dr. Barnum has reason for his remark. If it is seriously considered to appoint Mr. Ashdown to succeed Mr Ellis before Erzroom is reinforced then I think Erzroom will have just ground for grievance. I have stood by this work with the confident expectation that Erzroom supply would receive the very earliest consideration at the hands of the P.C. The mission has recognized that prior claim & I think the P.C. has also, & I do earnestly hope you will not grieve & discourage us by overlooking our undoubted right, & considering our need as secondary. Certainly, because of Mr. Cole's condition the need of Bitlis is paramount, but I trust you will fully recognize Erzroom's rights. There have been three missionaries in the field in Harpoot

most of the winter - Dr Gates, Mr. Browne & Mr. Ellis, as well as the lady missionaries. Certainly the spiritual results have been large. I have been able to make but one hurried tour, yet it grieves my heart deeply to think that these golden opportunities have been lost. I cannot refrain from expressing strong feeling at the possibility of other stations being kept up to the proper measure while Erzroom is left in this handicapped condition.

"The Friends of Armenia" have written asking if reinforcements were needed. As correspondence has been had concerning a certain Miss Dr. Beglarian - a Russian Armenian - quite highly recommended by Miss Willard and Miss(?) Harriet A Deering of Ocean Park near Old Orchard Maine - ~~we~~ I, in consultation with Mr. Bergholz, Mr. Graves & Miss Knapp, have written asking that Dr. Beglarian come to Erzroom. We urge that she do her best to secure her permit to practice her profession. She would become officially connected with the orphanage & so be amenable to our advice & under our protection. I trust this may succeed. At the same time I would urge upon you again the very great need of re-

inforcement for women's work. Miss Knapp has done well & is developing. But there is enough work for three ladies. They could safely come at once. I have gone carefully in this orphan work, because of the need of more help. Much more might be done. Would that we had more workers. What is your opinion of accepting assistants from the "Friends of Armenia"?

I presume you will have noticed the letter of Mr. Lerrell as to Mr. Knapp's case published in the Tribune.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely
W. Ulehamberg.

P.S. Mr. Coler reports that he has cabled you to send Mr. Richardson now. I am wondering what action you will take on the matter. It seemed some too bad to bring that question up again, or root Mr. R. out of his newly assumed pastorate for a doubtful experiment. However it is quite possible that Mr. R. has learned very much by experience so that a new trial might be successful. I have not the slightest doubt of Mr. R's good intentions.

Erzeroum, May 31. 97

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-12-97.
Ans'd 27

Erzroom. June 16. '97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

I forward you the Erzroom Station Report & Lab. View for '96. I hope I am not too late. I have received only Van Report & Lal. View. I presume each Station will forward directly to you. Miss Knapp has already forwarded the Report for Erzroom on Women's work & Girls School.

I wonder if any one else has been appointed to this mission. I wrote you expressing myself in regard to the appointment of Mr Ashdown to Harpoot. It was not perfectly clear from the information I had. Dr. Raynolds questioned it. But a note from Dr. Barnum by this post shows that Mr. Ashdown was appointed as Mr Ellis' successor, it would be "natural that he should come to Hpt." With rather mixed feelings I await your letter on this question. There must be some sufficient reason for it, but I would like to have the satisfaction of

removing what it is.

Last reports from Mr. Cole show him to be in not a very vigorous state of health.

With kindest regards
Yours truly
W. H. Chandler.

P.S. I am perplexed about estimates. As there is no certainty that any estimate made will be of any avail, I rather think to omit any estimate & adjust the appropriations as best possible after they are made. It is a question, not of making an estimate to sustain & develop a certain work, but to force the work in hand into the compass of the appropriation.
W. H. C.

Response, June 16, 97

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-24-97
Ans'd 27

Erzroom June 25. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton;—

Yours of May 28th at hand, & was glad to hear from you again. I presumed that you were absent on a tour, but I was not sure that letters may not have gone astray.

You will receive my letters in which I express myself in reference to what I judged from Dr. Barnum's letter that Mr Ashdown was appointed as Mr Ellis' successor at Harpoot. I do not gather that idea from your letter, rather judge that Dr. Barnum has misunderstood.

My remarks ~~based~~ about Mr. Ashdown's going to Bitlis were based on the feeling that you express in your letter; "It will not do for a new man to take up the work in any one station alone". Mr. Ashdown goes on to relieve Mr Cole, that the latter may leave on furlough. It seems to me that is more than Mr. Ashdown can do. He cannot relieve Mr. Cole, then why should he go? It was on this thought of not leaving an untried man in charge alone, that I urged reinforcements for Erzroom. Had a man come last fall, or early this spring, he could have

relieved me this coming fall. Now I fear I will be greatly delayed. I do not want to leave here till some one comes to take my place. But when is that going to be? The coming of Mr. Knapp is of doubtful propriety unless that is carefully arranged in Cpte. Now, that objection is made to President Angell, Mr K's. case will in all probability go by the Board. I have now no hope that either Mr. Macallum or Mr McNaughton can be induced to come here. I must say that in the circumstances, as Mr. Ashdown cannot relieve Bittis, he might be able to at least partially relieve Eyroom.

I have nothing new to add since my report. The Koorde are rather turbulent & aggressive. There has been considerable cattle lifting on.

I will write the C. A. I. at Cpte. about the coming of the Misses Ely.

I had hoped that Mrs. Chamberlain might have been able to see you at Battor, but she evidently was not.

Yours truly
W. H. Chamberlain.

Eyroom, June 2nd, 97

Rec'd 7-24-97
Ans'd

Erzroom June. 25. 1897

To the
Com. ad Interim
Constantinople,

The Misses Ely are anxious to return to Bitlis this fall. I have written them inviting them to come here to await the opening of the way. In the mean time they could do much work here. Their going on to Bitlis is of doubtful expediency, but it has seemed to me they might come this far. The question is referred to your Com. for expression of opinion in regard to it. I have not heard from the Misses Ely whether they would entertain the proposition or not. However the expression of your opinion might help them to a decision one way or the other. Also I would be glad of expression of your opinion as to the advisability of new lady missionaries coming here or to any point in the mission. Dr. Barton seems to refer the question to you for opinion in accordance with your suggestion of a year ago. We need the reinforcement & ought to have them this fall.

Yours sincerely
W. N. Chambers.

Our Mission action meets this request favorably.
Geo. F. Herrick

Erzroom, June 25, 97

Private

Erzroom. July 1st 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Rec'd 7-2
Ans'd " 27

My dear Dr. Barton.

You, I hope, will not think me transgressing the proprieties in doing what causes me very great pain, i.e. call your attention to the state of affairs at Bitlis. I do so with the greatest hesitation, yet I feel that I would not be doing right to keep silence. I have presumed to urge on Mr. Cole the advisibility of his taking his furlough at once. In this I have passed the bounds a bit, but if Mr. Cole will only do what I urge him to do I am willing to be held responsible & take any reprimand that may be given

Mr. Cole was ordered on furlough by Dr. Thom. There was evidently good ground for it. Mr. Cole has recovered to a certain extent, but he is drawing seriously on his capital. His letters indicate that he is staggering under the burden. I have therefore suggested to him to form a Com. of native brethren & give that Com. supervision over what work there is to be done. You can take supervision of that Com. by correspondence. Or possibly Mr. Allen might

visit the city once or twice. Under the present circumstances Mr. Cole cannot undertake any aggressive work - neither can the Com. It is quite feasible for such a Com. to do ~~that~~ the ordinary work. For Mr. C's. own sake he ought to state his position.

But in addition to this one needs as favourable circumstances as possible in order to do acceptable work. When the circumstances are altogether unfavourable then possibly the work had better be left alone. Mr. Cole is alone with no one to consult, he is in poor health, which is always a handicaping condition. He naturally cannot do the work to the best advantage. Now I come to the painful part of what I am compelled to say. I am forced to believe that he has failed to do the work to the best advantage. For a long time I have heard unfavourable remarks concerning what Mr Cole had done. They were rather exclamations expressive of feeling which you know people are apt to make, & paid little attention to them. But latterly the conviction has been forced upon me that there is ground for very serious objection to the methods & work in Bitis. This is not only on the part of the Prot. Community which, as I understand it, is in a state of chronic discontent with

Mr. C. but it is <u>universal</u>. The Gregorians showed their esteem for Mr. Knapp Sr. & to some extent for Mr. K. Jr. for their work's sake. But I have yet to hear a single commendatory word for Mr. C's. work. You know Mr. C. at his best. You can realize somewhat the condition of things when all circumstances are altogether unfavourable. I wonder is this not enough? I do not want to take time to specify further. I make no complaint whatever. I only call your attention to a condition that is most painful, & that <u>privately</u> & because I feel it a duty to both Mr Cole & the work. If Mr. C. would take his furlough now & recuperate, return with his family & an associate it would be different. Please do not think that I feel anything but the kindliest towards Mr. Cole. I have high esteem for his spirit of self sacrifice & devotion. But some of his method is unfortunate, especially where alone. Where he alienates the esteem of all the people his influence must be very greatly nullified. I am sorry to write this, but I feel it a duty to conscience, with the thought that in your deliberations you may have it in mind & with the largest possible consideration

for Mr. Cé's. feelings you can better advise him as this course of action in remaining or taking his furlough.

I have never yet asked Shane a letter of mine burned. But I trust you will burn this. Far be it from me to wound Mr Cé's. feelings & I send you this for your own private information.

I do wish I had authority for detaining Mr. Ashdown here. I have a note from him from London in which he says he expects to reach Cíále. on July 3 - i.e today. I presume he may reached here in 18 or 20 days. He may remain for Cíále. an. Mtg.

Yours truly
W. H. Chambers.

Dogroom, July 1, 97

BC
8-14-97
19

Erzroom. July 20th. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

My dear Dr. Barton,

I have nothing from you to answer. I wrote you about the Bitlis question, & Mr. Cole. I think you will understand my letter about Mr. Cole & realize it is for yourself & your own information. My suggestion does not take with either Mr. C. or Dr. Raynolds. The latter considers that it was rather "special pleading" on my part. I fully realize I ran the risk of that supposition on the part of some. However as far as I can judge myself I was actuated by disinterested motives. I trust it will come out all right for Mr. Cole, for Mr. Ashdown & for Bitlis work. I have done what I considered my duty & I let the question lie & take its own course. Mr. Ashdown being unwell in Cyprus has arrived at Trebizond & remains for some time with Mr. Crawford at Chamkachi. I'm sorry for poor Mr. Cole. This will be a heavy disappointment to him — even a month's delay.

Now to turn to my own question. You will remember that I wrote you some time ago saying that Smyrna or Constantinople seemed to offer conditions making it possible for Mrs. Chamberlain to return to mission ground. Neither of those places affords an opening. It therefore remains to consider Mrs. Chamberlain's return to Erzroom or my return to America. As to the first I would reiterate what I have already said. That is an alternative which I do not wish to consider. You have the Dr's. opinion, and have the experience in Erzroom. Both lead me to feel that neither Mrs. Chamberlain or Kate should return to Erzroom. Not only so, but the Dr's. opinion here confirms it. Mrs. Chamberlain cannot retain what she has gained, much less can she make any gain in this place. Mrs. C. might endure for a time but she would suffer, but I cannot bear to think Kate under such conditions and as surely ~~will~~ handicap her whole life.

Therefore the only solution which presents itself to my mind is my return to America either on furlough, or resignation so as to leave funds at the disposal of the Board to supply my place. That question however

could be arranged after my reaching America. I make this definite proposition in order to secure a decision & thereby change somewhat these conditions that seem to have passed endurance. Mrs. Lehmann & the children sadly need the comforts of home. Day after tomorrow will complete the year since they left me. Undoubtedly months will pass before we can be a united family. At least they ought to know at once what to plan for for the coming winter. As to myself - like so many in the mission - I seem to have gotten very nearly to the end of the power of endurance. This long heavy strain bearing the sole responsibility for all this work under these untoward circumstances has been overtaxing. It is simply impossible for a person in an overtaxed condition to do acceptable work. This overtaxed condition is the state of most of the men of the mission. However I have been alone i.e. without an associate to share work & responsibility for three years. In all all other stations excepting Bitlis there are associates & Bitlis is where one soon. In addition to this, as my family cannot return my case can receive definite consideration & decision. I therefore ask for a furlough & that a new

missionary be appointed at once to Erzroom to take up the work at the earliest possible moment. I would hope that this would release me by New Years or at latest by early spring. If you give this decision my family can settle down for the winter, & on my arrival in America the question of my return to mission ground can be decided. I will be sorry to leave mission ground, but I can't help but think that possibly providence may may be leading in that way. To say the least the present conditions are unnatural & I can't think they were ever intended the long indured. The political outlook does not effect Erzroom as much as Bitlis, & reinforcement is on the way to Bitlis, i.e. there is no obstacle to send a man to Erzroom. The only hope for supply is in sending a new man.

The Misses Ely object to my invitation to Miss Knapp to remain for at least for another year in Erzroom. That is perfectly natural on their part, & I can understand it perfectly. However I am glad to be able to say that the work done by Miss Knapp this year makes me all the more anxious to have her remain. The school year has just closed. The examinations of the schools conducted by Miss Knapp were eminently satis-

factory & evidenced good & successful work done. The reputation of the school was greatly enhanced. I am glad to say that this trial only increases my desire to have Miss K. remain at least another year. At the same time I would again urge the very great need of another lady teacher, missionary I should say. If one should come this autumn she would be ready in a year to take full charge if it is decided that Miss K. should return to Bitlis at that time. I urge upon you this question & beg that it be not left till Miss Knapp is leaving to send in a new recruit. Please remember that had a new man come here last fall, or even early this spring I could have been released at latest this fall. Send in reinforcements on time.

The Sultan has evidently gotten the best of Europe & the peace negotiations will amount to nothing. Either the Js. will quietly remain in Thessaly or go on & occupy Athens. In either case the political conditions here are likely to remain as they are & so we may as well consider our own work under the circumstances in which it is.

Yours very truly (over)

W. H. Chambers.

For some days there has been quite a movement of troops to the region lying between this & Van some distance back from the Russian border. What this may mean is not apparent. One report is that there is possible trouble with the Kurds — this not probable. Others surmise that it is for the Russians, but no signs appear on the opposite side of the border. It does not seem like a simple movement of troops.

Harnack gives fair promise.

Erzroom. July 30, '97

B
8-14-97
19

Egypt July 23. '97.

Dear Dr Barton

I find I failed to post the enclosed letter by last post. Since writing I have prepared the inclosed extraconcessional vote & circular. I do so because the mission should have opportunity to take cognizance & express itself on the question. I trust you will not wait for the vote of the mission but take immediate action. The vote is as follows:-

Whereas Dr. S. Weir Mitchel of Phila. states his opinion concerning the condition of my wifes health & her prospect of recovery as follows:-

"I think Egypt is a high level both seriously against the chances of complete return to health in any case like that of your wife. Either if you should be on a lower level, or she contented to dwell apart from you & your work for a time as to the needlessness of which no man can be sure. She will have her best chances on some elevation lower than Egypt. Nor can I omit to state that after a woman has been on the verge of perilous hysteria the place of her trial is no place for her. It has seemed to me a duty to state to you my opinion."

I therefore, beg the mission to endorse my request for permission to visit America at the earliest possible moment, & at the same time bring on the P.B. the imperative need of the immediate supply of Errom.

Fraternally W. H. Chambers"

I accompanied this with the following letter

"Dear Brethren of E. T. M.

I enclose a vote about which I need say but little. 1. What my wife gained in our visit to U.S. in '91 & '92 she began to lose on our return, & what I dreaded during those following years has come to pass. The result is her present condition. Physically she has greatly improved, but the Dr's. opinion still holds as to her nervous condition. 2. Kate is a very nervous child & I do not think it well to run the risk of handicapping her after life by residence in Zululand where she cannot develop nervous tone. 3. I do not urge the need of change direct for myself for I presume almost every man in the mission is in the same state - overworked & weary - the power of endurance seemingly well nigh exhausted.

4. As my visit to U.S. may become a permanent one, & in all probability may be a permanent withdrawal from Bangkok a new appointment should be made at once - should have been made at least a year ago - thereby affording me opportunity to plan for the future. 5. It is a sad duty to unsettle oneself, break the bonds of years of missionary association, & leave a work that has absorbed the best part of one's life. "The workers die, but the work goes on." Thank God, other workers are to be found, & I am no necessity. I therefore beg the brethren to give me a favourable vote & kindly send me to whatever work the Lord may have for me elsewhere. I have put "visit to America" instead of resignation thinking that might be an easier vote at present while at the same time there is indicated a shadow of a possibility in the D's opinion that Dr Chamberlain might possibly after a time be able to return to Bangkok. That question can be definitely settled later if it is thought best, it need not be considered now. I do not wish to leave till supply is provided. I therefore ask that each station may communicate its vote directly to Dr Barton as well as to me, that Barton may be informed at the earliest possible moment.

I take it for granted that the only possible vote is an affirmative one. It is now just a year since my family left. I see no hope of reunion for another six months at least. Though some other brethren have been longer separated from their families that does not argue that our separation has not been already too long.

Fraternally W. H. C.

I hope this may bring my case up definitely strengthen your hands in your efforts to find a solution. I have just heard Br. Cipile that the meeting there took no action. I presume the need is not great. So I see no way at present, but a visit to Am. I'm sure I need it. If the way opens to return to mission ground I will be glad, for that is my desire. If however I cannot return the Lord may open some other work for me.

Yours truly
W. H. Chambers.

8-23-97
24

Erzroom. July 20. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton,

Yours of July 9th at hand to day. I was a bit too quick in feeling a little discouraged at the thought of Mr. Ashdown being appointed Mr. Ellis' successor. Naturally I took it for granted that Harpoot was had in view. Evidently Dr Barnum was of the same impression. I also thought that the mission had already expressed itself in reference to reinforcement for Erzroom. Dr. Dewey once generously proposed that Mr. Larkin should be sent to Erzroom, but the mission did not take it up. That proposition was on the ground of the need in Erzroom. I concurred in Mr. Ashdown's going to Bitlis on the ground that Mr Leale should be relieved. If however Mr. Leale does not contemplate leaving, I think I might be accommodated. However I hope my action which I have already reported to you will bring up the question definitely & you will have definite mission action on which to move.

Letter from Atkinson, July 23, 97

It is a great pity that E.T.M. might not have a meeting - but that seems quite out of the question. This isolation is much trying.

I think you are right in your position in regard to Mr. Richardson. I would doubt the wisdom of his coming on an emergency. He is self-sacrificing to do so. But it would seem he is wise not to disturb his pastoral work. I have no doubt he has gained much by experience might do good work. However the health of his wife and child - more particularly the latter - would seem to me a great drawback.

I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Knapp is to be advised to return to U.S. - but I have no doubt there must be good reason for it. I had hoped he might come here. But I became discouraged because of the opinion of the consuls - I think they have good ground for it. His coming would be running a risk - which might possibly have been taken with safety - again it might not. Not only do officials know of the case - but very many of the Turkish communities. Then I doubt if he himself would be satisfied by anything short of vindication.

I have been making up the Relief a/c & a

preparing for final report of the Commission. I have given over the materials to Mr. Graves who will work up the report. I hope to forward to you a report on the orphanage with pictures next week.

The weather is very warm just now. We cannot get out of the city this year again, not for any danger - but because it is inconvenient.

Evidently Mrs. Chambers has made good gain both physically & nervously. I think I remarked that the gain made only goes to confirm the Dr's. opinion that Syracuse is not suitable. With Mrs. C. in better health, than she could possibly have here, I think we could do better work elsewhere.

Kind regards
Yours truly
W. H. Chambers

Rec'd 8-30-97
Ans'd 9-2

Erzroom Aug 6. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.,
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I send you a copy of a report on Orphans prepared by Mrs. Graves-wife of the English Consul here. After you finish with it - if you are able to make use of it - can you let the "Congregationalist" people have it? It will be a report of the work they have assisted to support.

I hope soon to be able to send on a copy of the final report of Relief work. I have given over the material to Mr. Graves who has kindly undertaken to work it up. Our general relief work is just about closed up.

I wish you could secure the use of a Report on Orphan work here sent on as a dispatch by Mr. Benholz. Could you not enquire if he has made such a report - it was made a couple of months ago? If possible secure it for publication.

We are having heavy hot weather. I am sorry not the able to get away from the city. But it seems impossible, owing the expense.

With kind regards
Yours truly
W. Uhlhamburg

Orleans, Aug. 6, '77

Rec'd 9-7-97
Ans 24

Erzroom. Aug 16. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston,

Dear Dr. Barton:

I enclose one copy of the interseccional vote. Returns have come from Van, Bitlis & Harpoot, & send on this report to let you see that the vote has almost the required majority & undoubtedly Mardin will sign. You will therefore have this question officially & definitely before you for action. There are two things in the vote. 1 The need of immediate supply of Erzroom. 2. Furlough home at the earliest possible moment. I can see no way out of the difficulty but by new reinforcement — unless a miracle works in the Knapp case.

The news from Van causes a little anxiousness here. The movement of troops & ammunition to the south & east continues & the reserves are called out.

This development at Van may give the mission ely pause.

Kind regards W. H. Chambers

P.S.

I think I wrote you that I had advised Mrs. Chambers to settle down for the winter in Am. I feel quite strongly that she has not regained nervous tone sufficiently to warrant her return here ~~for~~ unless it should be for only three or four months.

W. H. C.

Grayson, Aug. 1/93

9-27-97
10-25

251

Erzroom. Aug 21. '97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

Your favor of July 27th at hand. I imagine subsequent letters will have made clear my aptitude on the question of Mr. Cole's relief & Mr Ashdown's going on to Bitlis. My thought was that Mr C. ought to take his furlough & I still think so. In that case Mr. A. should not go there alone. However as Mr. Cole remains he ought not to be left alone & on that ground I have no objection to Mr. A's. going on. On other grounds I have. But under present circumstances it is impossible to make them come. They therefore must remain in abeyance. I will only be too glad to render Mr Cole any service I can & will do so when the opportunity opens. I am glad you have taken my letter as written. You will naturally seek reasons for explaining it away as I did. I heartily wish you could find sufficient ground on which to do so. I discounted by at least 50 %. You may discount mine by the same & simply keep in mind the remainder. Mr. Cole is brave & self sacrificing & will remain at his post at the greatest

risks.

You will have received Dr. R's. letter giving information that 3 bands of revolutionists had crossed fr. Persia. Later reports that seem well founded say 4 bands had crossed & one band of 30 men had actually gotten into Van city. The Turks report that these bands were well armed & their fire was much more precise & effective than that of the T's. There is every reason to believe that the trouble will be localized. May God pity the locality! The movement of troops to the Persian & Russian borders continues. As there seems to be no other reason it may simply be that the T's. intend to so reinforce the boundary guards as to make all such revolutionist movements impossible. The condition of the Xn peasants is steadily growing worse, more oppressive & hopeless & without any redress whatever.

I wrote you last week reporting the votes of Van, Bitlis & Harpoot on the vote I cabled. I hope you received it, & that it may be acted upon at the earliest possible moment.

Yours truly
W. N. Chamberlin.

Erzroom, Aug. 24, 97

9.29-97
10-2-97

Erzroom, Aug. 30th. 1897.

Rev. J.L.Barton D.D.
Boston,Mass.

My Dear Dr.Barton,

Mr.Ashdown arrived here on Sat. eve.-six days from Treb. Aside from being tired he is in very good form. He is in the midst of prepration for the bal. of the journey to Bitlis. He may get away in a day or two. In conversation he told that you seemed to have in mind the propriety of obtaining Canadian recruits for this mission as far as they offer, having in mind the thought that, being British subjects, consular protection might be more easily secured. Naturally I would not make very great objection to a man on that account. If you find one for Erz. send him along at once. However I have a thought to express & I submit it to you for consideration.

You will have some idea of the probable success that may attend Prof. Angell's mission, & whether he will be able to reestablish the legitimate influence of the U.S. It is to be supposed he will be able to do so. If not then your thought is a very natural one, especially since the Knapp case has gone "by the board." British subjects do obtain better protection than Americans, as a general thing. But it is not without its undesirable aspect. The British govt. has very considerable political interest in the country. The general opinion is that a person will serve the interests of his own country. I have little doubt that this is the feeling of the Turks & Russians, more particularly the latter, who are pleased to think that we do act as agents of the Brit. govt. It seems to me the influence of Russia must be predominant in the country, especially this part of it. The same opinion on the part of the Russians as to Am. citizens need not, & in all probability does not hold. The Russian opinion declared to the Turk would greatly tend to confirm his natural suspicion. The natural inference is that, other things being equal, Am. citizens might be preferable to British, in this part of the country at least. That is to say, if the U.S. govt. is going to try to exercise her legitimate influence, as she assuredly ought, in the country Americans would likely be able to do this work with less suspicion attaching to them than British. Besides the U.S. consulate is to be established here & also in Harpoot. The increase of Canadians lessens the reason of the establishment of these consnlates. It is to be hoped that Mr. Angell's hands' may be so streghthed that he maybe able to revive the shattered influence of the U.S. goverment. I merely throw out this thought.

There is disquieting news from Van. The Revolts. have incidently cotten into the city & the situation is very critical - though the

passage of time comes to pass that massacre may be avoided. A number of Hamedieh have been killed & the forts have fallen thus munitions run into the city.

The rest of the country seems as far quiet.

Yesterday good effort is being put forth to keep things quiet. We hope it is honest & may be effective.

Yours truly
W. W. Chambers

Gen. Morgan

The Mardin friend since a majority vote in favor, my persuasions which dissuaded Bryan & it has the indorsement, the mission.

Hamidieh called on the Governor Shakir Pacha - Sultan's birthday.

9-27-97
10-25-97

Erzroom, Seb. 5th. 1897.

Rev. J.L.Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My Dear Dr.Barton,

A letter received from Miss Ida Milinger this week indicates that she would like to come to Erzroom " for a while ".This same hint has been thrown out before & passed over. She will in all probability soon finish her work with the "Friends of Armenia",& will be looking ~~fo~~ for a permanent place of work.You know Miss M., & so I write to ask you your opinion& whether I should make any response to her hint in the ~~wa~~ way of giving her any encouragement.I wonderif you have made any pro~~gr~~ gress in finding a lady missionary for Erz. I also wonder what has ~~bee~~ been your decision in reference to Mrs.Chambers' return this fall.A short time here evidently would not do her much,if any, more harm than remaining in the unsettle d state in which she is now in U.S.I hope ~~on~~ our transfer can be settled & she come here for the winter.This prolonged separation ought to be avoided if at all possible.

Mr.Ashdown left here on his way to Bitlis yesterday. He was in very good form, & I think he will have a good journey.I am glad to say that I was quite favourably impressed with Mr. A. I hope he will be able to do good work in B.

I reported you last week that Mardin had recorded a majority vote for my request for furlough & supply of Erzroom. That proposition ~~a~~ has now received the majority necessary to carry it. only Dr. Thom failed to record a vote.

We are all well here & are waiting to hear of the movementso of missionaries . If Mrs Chambers comes out this fall might not Miss ~~D~~ Dickey (Mr.A's. prospective bride)come along with her ? Mr.A. could ~~m~~ meet her here.

With cordial regards,
Yours very truly,

W.H. Chambers.

Erzroom, Sept. 5th. 1897.

Rev. J.L.Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My Dear Dr.Barton,

A letter received from Miss Ida Millinger this week indicates that she would like to come to Erzroom " for a while ". This same hint has been thrown out before & passed over. She will in all probability soon finish her work with the "Friends of Armenia", & will be looking for a permanent place of work. You know Miss M. & so I write to ask you your opinions whether I should make any response to her hint in the way of giving her any encouragement. I wonder if you have made any progress in finding a lady missionary for Erz. I also wonder what has been your decision in reference to Mrs. Chambers' return this fall. A short time here evidently would not do her much, if any, more harm than remaining in the unsettled state in which she is now in U.S. I hope our transfer can be settled & she come here for the winter. This prolonged separation ought to be avoided if at all possible.

Mr. A. Adowm left here on his way to Bitlis yesterday. He was in very good form, & I think he will have a good journey. I am glad to say that I was quite favourably impressed with Mr. A. I hope he will be able to do good work in B.

I reported you last week that Marsh had recorded a majority for request for furlough & supply of Erzroom. That proposition has now received the majority necessary to carry it, only Dr. Thom failed to record a vote.

We are all well here & are waiting to hear of the movements of missionaries. If Mrs Chambers does not come this fall might not Miss Dickey (Mr. A's. prospective bride) come along with her ? Mr. A. could meet her here.

With cordial regards,
Yours very truly,

W. W. Chambers

Brighton, Oct. 5, 1897

10-25-97

Erzroom, Sep. 17th. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D, D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton,

Yours of Aug. 21st. at hand this morning. I hope you have heard from Mrs. Chambers, & that you have come to some definite arrangment. I trust the question is settled by this time. I write now to let you understand my cablegram sent to day to Dr. Williams at Philadelphia. I Prepared a telegram to send to you, but found I could send there cheaper. He will undoubtedly communicate with both yourself & Mrs. Chambers. My first draft of the tel. was- Send my family temporarily- I changed this to "Let my family come". I hope this will be understood & cause no alarm. I think I wrote you saying that my wife might come safely for a time. As I will not be able to get relief for a considerable time I concluded it would be better for us both to be here for the coming year, & th then see what can be done. The time is late & hence my telegram. I was further led to this action by Mrs. C's letter saying that she felt convinced that a year here would not be much more of a strain on her than remaining in U.S. in an unsettled state with the care of the three children on her hands. I hope she will have started.

Undoubtedly you would get the impression that we on the field would think that all that might have been done, had not been done "to supply the needs of the fields". The stress of circumstances may have called forth strongly expressed feeling. I would doubt that this could be construed as in any way a personal criticism of you friends at the rooms. It is not on my part at any rate. When I say that Erz. should have been reinforced a year ago, I am sure you wil l agree with me. But I do not say that with the thought that you have been careless. I think I have some idea of your embarrasing position. You know the position here & I can sympathise with you in your work. Dont feel sore when in the stress of circumstances we say something that may seem to reflect on you. I can confess that I did feel a little when I heard that Mr. Ashdown was appointed to Hpt. But why should have I complained? Hpt. is in great need of reinforcement also. We realize the opportunities here, & feel the very great need. It is a very great marvel that not only are men wanting, but the contributions of the churches have fallen off so tremendously. When will the people realize their opportunity? Beassured of our confidence, our sympathy in your most trying work, & our earnest prayers that the presence of the Lord be with you to guide you & establish the work of your hands.

We are all well. Schools going on nicely.

With kindest regatds,

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

Erroom, Sep. 17th. 1897.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton,

Yours of Aug. 21st. at hand this morning. I hope you have heard from Mrs. Chambers, & that you have come to some definite arrangement. I trust the question is settled by this time. I write now to let you understand my cablegram sent to day to Dr. Williams at Philadelphia. I prepared a telegram to send to you, but found I could send there cheaper. He will undoubtedly communicate with both yourself & Mrs. Chambers. My first draft of the tel. was- Send my family temporarily- I changed the to -Let my family come-. I hope this will be understood & cause no alarm. I think I wrote you saying that my wife might come safely for a time. As I will not be able to get relief for a considerable time I concluded it would be better for us both to be here for the coming year, & then see what can be done. The time is late & hence my telegram. I was further led to this action by Mrs. C's letter saying that she felt convinced that a year here would not much more of a strain on her than remaining in U.S. in an unsettled state with the care of the three children on her hands. I hope she will have started.

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We are all well. Schools going on nicely.

With kindest regards,
Yours very truly,

W. H. Blackburn.

Diphtheria & typhoid 1/2

10-18-97
25

255

Erzroom, Sep. 24th. 1897.

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Your favor of the 3rd. came to day. You have got my idea to the effect that in case that Mrs. Chambers's health admitted of it she might come out this fall in the that hope that a transfer might be arranged in the no distant future. I hope she is already on the way. For that reason I do not write her to day. I would ask you however to let her know that you have heard from me under this date, in case she has not already started. I trust Miss Dickie will be with her. I will meet them in Trebizond, if not in Cple. I imagine Mr. Ashdown will need to come here for his wedding as the Eng. Consul here has the right to legalize such a transaction in this part of the world for British Subjects. It will come in very well for Mr A. to come here get his bride & escort her back to Bitlis.

Kindest regards,
Yoursverytruly,
W. N. Chambers.

All well,

Erzroom, Sep. 24, 1897.

12-7-97

Constantinople Nov. 9. '97.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

You will be surprised to find me here at this date. Delay however seems to be the "order of the day" on this journey. I took an entire week on my trip from Erzroom here - was 9 (nine) days on the Black Sea from Trebizond. The storms are still on & you know the steamer difficulty here. We are trying to possess ourselves in as much patience as we can find. We now have confident hope of getting off tomorrow (Wednesday). We will undoubtedly have some cold muddy weather on the road, but I think that any snow that has fallen will have left the road open. If we get off tomorrow I will have been here just a week. I think this change, in spite of storms &c. has done me good, & as you may suppose, I am glad to get my family back again. I will feel better however when I have this journey behind us.

I am glad to find Mrs. Chambers evidently much improved. Physically she seems to be very well with a much better nervous tone. Thanks to Mr. Huntington, her trip so far was not at all as trying as I feared it would be. I feel very grateful indeed to Mr. Huntington.

The future is indefinite, & so no definite plans can be made. You assure us that our case is definitely before you, & quite understood. I trust that Mrs. Chambers' return will not have the effect of relegating the

Washington Feb 9. 71.

Mr. J. Dolan 38
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir

I have received your letter of the 2nd inst. but
as I was in Philadelphia when it came I did not
answer it. Mrs J (Mrs) Haig wrote Mrs Dolan
from Lockport. We always are glad to see your
handwriting. We are trying to persuade
Mr Johnson to come to see us. We are trying to persuade
our new Mr Conkling to visit us. Mr Conkling
(Secretary) we will probably have some work
money matters now and I know that our
friends will help us. Mr Conkling is a
fine young gentleman. I wish I could see
you. I think the change in Mrs Dolan's
health will be good for her. Mrs Dolan sends
her kind regards to you. Mrs Dolan's health
is very good. Mr Dolan's health is very
good. Mr Dolan's health is very good.
Mr Dolan's health is very good.
Mr Dolan's health is very good.

question of those which may be considered as "in a fair way of solution". A week is not adequate time in which to form opinion, but I have not been led to any hope that Mrs Chambers estate might safely remain for any considerable time. I understand that a new man is under appointment for S.W. I earnestly hope that his designation may be Erzroom. I doubt not that the mission would endorse that, as it has already endorsed the immediate reinforcement. We will hope for reinforcement this winter. We can make the journey in winter. I made it with Mrs Chambers in January.

The question of missionary residence may possibly come up. The upper rooms of the Boys School were fitted up & occupied by the Richardsons. Those rooms are now occupied by the boys school and the orphans. The girl's schools have overflowed into the rooms occupied by the Macallums. In case of two families occupying the station another house would have to be rented.

I desire to thank you most cordially for your kindly sympathetic treatment of Mrs Chambers. The burden of her mind incident on the decision to return, & work of preparation were greatly relieved by your thoughtful consideration. For all of which we are very grateful.

I hope the 25th. of this month may find us in Erzroom.

With cordial regards
Yours sincerely W.H. Chambers

(over)

P.S. Friday Eve. We are still here. The storm has been most violent. We hope however to get off tomorrow (Saturday) morning. The weather seems to have quieted somewhat. The steamer proposes to start tomorrow. Yesterday evening I was left to consider the advisibility of leaving my family here for the winter. But deciding to make the effort to get on. The storm is widely extended & undoubtedly snow has covered the road to Sprooom. It may have cleared off a little before we reach it the storm has been so very early. Trusting to the Lord we go forward. Hope the delicate ones of the party may not suffer above their strength. I confess however this storm has given me serious pause.

W.H.C.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-20-97
Ans'd 1-4-98

Erzroom. Nov. 27th. 1897

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have time only for a note today to announce our safe arrival here yesterday evening. We were marvelously favored. Yet I never had such a journey. We had 10 men to dig out the road over Zigana where the snow was very deep & we took the waggons up a caravan road instead of the carriage road. The road fr. Zigana to Erzroom was covered with snow. However we got through by carriage in 9 days including Sunday. The last day was bitterly cold. Aside from one or two colds we are all in good form. The children stood the journey marvously well. The Ely ladies got very tired - but apparently overtired. Mrs. Chambers has endured well. After this I would say that any journey at any season is possible, though I would not want to take the same over again. After we passed Cope Mt. I had the first frolic with the children. We are once more a united family here

welcome by the brethren was most cordial. I really think Mrs. Chambers & the children improved on the journey.

Mr. Ashdown was here taking out his residence, but the special licence for Miss Dickie was not obtainable. They are considering this plans.

I have just now received your favor of Nov. 2nd. We rejoice greatly in the definite news of Mr. Stapleton's appointment. If he leaves U.S. as you say, he ought to be here by New Years. He will be able to get over the road all right from Lindizond. Now for a lady missionary. Can you not send one with Mrs. Stapleton?

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Grafton, Nov. 2nd 1897

Erzroom. Dec. 10. 1897

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Rec'd 1-3-98
1-17-

Dear Dr. Barton.

Your favor reporting appts. for 1898 dated Nov 17th at hand - for which thanks. I presume that the appts. for gen. work must be apportioned according to the per-cts. in use. It will be impossible to make any changes by intercessional vote. It is too large a question to be settled without careful consideration. No one of one station can at present judge of the needs of another station because of the need of definite information.

Your report of sal. appts. does not seem quite clear to me. You seem to have treated us too well even with the 5% cut. Possibly you may have some new arrangement for fixing sals. You seem to have increased the sals. by the amt. of rent. & then reduced by 5%. At the Mardin meeting in 1894 the following resolution was passed:- "Voted that 165 T.L. be fixed as the uniform basis for the salary of a missionary & his wife in Bitlis, Harpoot, Mardin & Van stations, and

£T 177 in Erzroom Station." As I understand it rents are included in this. The higher basis of £12 was allowed for Erzroom on account of the higher expense in living - especially in fuel. You have made the basis 180 £ for each missionary & his wife for all the stations. Possibly you did this with the intention that the extra ~~abo~~ "rent" should be used by the station as repairs & taxes. I would call your attention to the following:-

1. Erzroom salaries should be increased by £12. for a married man & 6 £ for single person above that of other station. For instance I am cut 12 £ in addition to the 5%. A single person is cut 6 £ in addition to the 5%. I called your attention to this concerning my cal. for the current year. It has really been cut 6 £. being the same as Mr. Coles & Mr. Browne's while it should have been higher. I would like to have the advantage of the extra for '98.

2. You make the single sals (Mr. Browne's, Mr. Coles & Mr. Stapleton's) each 97½ £. Should this not be 90 £ in Apt & Bitlis, if 180 is retained as basis in order to conform ~~to~~ the rule that a single missionary's sal. should be half of a married man's? Mr. Stapleton's should be 6 £ more than the others.

If however the higher basis is retained Mr Shapleton's & Miss Knapp's should be 101½ £ each.

To make this more clear, If you make 177 £ the basis of my sal. according to the mission action adding the extra for children (2 over 7 & one under) £ 4425 my sal. would be £ 228.25. 5% of this is 11.05 deducting this I would get 210.20 £.S. for '98. Should this not be my allowance for '98? If however 180 £ is made the basis for other stations for a missionary & wife my sal. should be 12 £ more, or 192 £. Adding the extra (48 £) for children my sal. would 240. £. deducting 5% (12 £) I would receive 228 £. for '98.

I have now only time to call your attention to this.

Mrs. Chamberlain has been attacked by fever which I fear is typhoid. She came off the road apparently very well & how she got this exposure I cant say. I think the case is light, but Mrs C. being delicate & somewhat tired from the journey is loosing much by this. It is a great set back to our plans

Mr. Ashdown expects to get married on Tuesday next, & they with the Gly ladies plan to start that day.

We hope for Mr. Stapleton's arrival in a couple of weeks, though I have not heard from him directly.

Yours truly
W. Lehambers

P.S. The N.Y. Herald commission left here last Monday for Britis. I think Dr. H. is doing good work. Evidently he will do what he can to apologize for the T.S. but I think he will not hide facts that come

Cincinnati, O. Dec. 10, '97

this knowledge. Facts will always tell their own story no matter how the narrator tries to interpret them. I think much good will come out of the commission. Dr. H. is a fine man & full of energy.

L. B.
Rec'd 1-18-98
Ans'd 18

Erzroom Dec 24. 1897

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton,

I am glad to be able to report Mrs. Chambers well along in convalescence. The fever ran two weeks. She now finds herself very weak, but is making steady progress. There is a great deal of typhoid fever small pox & erysipilas in the city just now. This sickness has disarranged our plans greatly. I have had to give much time to nursing Mrs Chambers as there are none who can take charge of a sick person and nurse him properly. As a consequence I am very late with my a/c.s. which I have only gotten ready to send on to Mr. Beck by this post. The force of helpers is reduced, but the appts. are also. I am not sure that the men could be found if there were more money. But it seems as if the finest opportunities are being lost. It does seem as if good men could have gone into various places much good work could have been done. But as the supply of such places

is delayed the favourable impressions
spoken well of the people become cooled
& golden opportunities lost.

We have word that Mr. Stapleton
may arrive here in the beginning of the week
I fear he will have had a hard journey.
It was impossible to send anyone from
here to meet him, because we have not
had definite word of his movements
now when we get word he is almost
here. Hon. Alhajanian returned the
other day. It would have been nice
if Mr. S. could have come with
him, but he (Hon. Alha) did not have
word till he reached Bellejonde & he would
have to have waited a week or ten
days for him. No word yet from
the Bittis party. I presume they
reach Bittis today.

Very sincerely

N. H. Chambers.

P.S. Our Xmas & New Years must
necessarily be a very quiet time.

Greyroom, Dec. 24, '97

2-17-98
18

260

Elmwood Jan. 17. '98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I think that considerable time has passed since I have written you. I am glad to be able to say that Mrs. Chamberlin has made marvelous progress toward recovery from the attack of typhoid. She is now about the house a good deal. She has been out for fresh air in a sleigh. I think this much has been gained because of the great care we took from the beginning. Thus far we have been greatly encouraged. However from the other side - the one of her old trouble nervousness - we have not the same encouragement. The other day she was almost exhausted by an attack of palpitation which lasted over 5 hours. This I judged to be the result of weakness resulting from the disease. But the Dr. declared it to be nervousness. She has had no such attack since she left here in 1896. This is a bit of a disappointment & serves to keep in mind Dr. Mitchell's opinion.

We were greatly rejoiced by the arrival of Mr. Stapleton. We have greatly enjoyed his presence with us & are led to the opinion that he is a man of good parts & good judgment - I feel quite strongly that

he will make a good worker. Our time has been much taken up with Christmas & New Years calling &c. with the week of Prayer services. I am glad to say that Mr. S. has made a good impression both on foreign colony & native friends. We is writing his sister as to the advisibility of his coming out at once. I need not press this question. Miss Knapp remains for this winter. She will visit C'ple in the spring & then return to Bitlis. Then we will be orphaned as far as the girls' sch. is concerned. Our head teacher resigns also. To supply the places of these two is a very serious question. Please consider this question & do your utmost to supply the need. In the fall the principal ones of the staff of the girls' school teachers will be new. They ought to be on hand at the earliest possible moment.

The N.Y. Herald Commission has declared that there is no blame attached to the missionaries. This declaration was made for Bitlis. Undoubtedly this will have some effect as the testimony of the Sultan's own commission. May this not be a point gained in favor of Miss Knapp's return. Might that not be brought about. I will take with the Consul here that you know the result of the conversation.

Our week of Prayer meetings were well attended & good ordinary interest manifested. Signs are not wanting of improving spiritual conditions.

Yours truly W. H. Chandler

Bitlis, Jan. 7, '78

2-17-98
18

261

Erzroom, Jan. 21st. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton,

I do not know in what state the case of Mr. Knapp is, & possibly it is not to be agitated at the present time. But the thought comes to me that if it can be brought forward at this time it might carried to a successful issue. Mr. Knapp ought to be back in Bitlis if it is a t all possible. Mr. Cole ought to get away. Mr. Ashdown ought not to be left alone. It is altogether too much for him. The Ely ladies are too feeble to bear the extra strain of, to say the least, the feeling of responsibility, which they will undoubtedly be under. Other reasons might be mentioned, such as the heavy handicap put upon Mr. Ashdown of trying to do work without the language &c.

Now Dr. Hepworth has expressed himself very strongly to the effect the the missionaries were not at all blameworthy for the disturbances, but on the contrary they did al in their power to lead the people to a loyal & peaceful attitude. This is the verd ict of the Sultan's own commission & its judgment ought to have considerable weight, & if used to good advantage, of great weight. Cannot something be done? I throw out these thoughts as they occur to me. You can judge of their value. I have spoken to the consuls about this matter & they seem to think that it would be wise to take advantage of the circumstance, if any thing can be made of it. Mr. Cole would be able to judge whether the feeling against Mr. K. continues very strong or not. I have an impression that it is notso strong as formerly.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers

P.S. I send a copy of this to Dr. Dwight. Showed me this. If at all possible send Mr. K. back. The passage of time has caused change in the feelings of those who were formerly very bitter. Is not the active hostility to missionaries considerably modified. I think it is, at least the local hostility. If Mr. K.

satisfactorily

question can be arranged at Cyprus. I do not see why the missionaries not safely return. The brethren at Bitlis would know better. 1

I am glad to say that Mr Stapleton has made a good impression here. We have enjoyed his society very much. It seems to me he evidences the signs that indicate a good & judicious worker. I think I can congratulate you on your success in finding him.

Mrs. Chambers continues to gain strength. We have been called upon to sorrow with one of our oldest & truest workers in the death of his wife by typhoid. She was the wife of Bad Boghos Karahadian of Khanoos. She was an exemplary mother & wife. A fine economical housekeeper & a most earnest Christian woman. She leaves a family of seven children, some of them small. It has filled the community with sadness & it presses on our hearts with a peculiar sadness.

With cordial salutation.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Jan. 21, 98

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-14-98
Ans'd 15

Erzroom, Feb. 17th. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Your favor of in which you speak of my letters concerning the sal. apprs. for '98. I can quite easily see how the error arose. It was quite within the possibilities, as you had no definite estimates from some of the stations, & things were irregular. However I was not speaking for myself alone. The error in my sal. was not very much. There were errors in the sals. of others also. That may easily be rectified at annual meeting which we hope to have. I have heard from Van & Bitlis who both favor it. I hope to hear from Mardin & Harpoot so soon & will advise you at once. of their votes.

I write to day to speak of our question. As the an. meet. will soon come upon us, & as the W.T.M. an. meet. will be earlier, I am in a state of query as to the question. I would like to hear from you as to how the matter lies in your mind. Possibly you have it in consideration. However I will note it as it lies in my mind. Mrs. Chambers's return here was essentially experimental. There was the doubt that the climate would not be favourable to her continuous good health, as you know a very important item in missionary work. The Dr.'s opinion was that she should not remain here. I regret to say that the indications are that his opinion was well founded. It is true that Mrs. Chambers has had the trial of an attack of typhoid fever. But she recuperated from that in a marvelous manner, showing that her system is possessed of very considerable vitality. She seems to have recovered completely from that illness. It may be that it has affected her nervously. Of that I cannot judge. Whether it be from the climate, or from that, or not, the fact remains that the old signs of nervousness are steadily coming back on her. This makes me think that this condition is due to the climate & other conditions of life. I am therefore of the same opinion, as already expressed, that other things being equal a change is most desirable. I think my wife's continued good health is dependent on it. Whether the Cple. offer is still open I do not know. At that time it seemed to us that would be a favourable change. I understand that that was conditioned on the provision of sufficient funds so that there would be no burden laid on the ordinary apprs. This was very natural on the part of the W.T.M. You will know whether such funds are forthcoming or not rendering such change possible. I do not know of any other opening or place that would be so likely to secure the result desired.

As to the work here, we feel its very great importance, & the undesirability of leaving it, the more so as Mr. & Mrs. Stapleton are new to it & may possibly be left alone in case of our withdrawal. But that was the possibility last year & was under consideration at that time & is not a new element in the question.

satisfactorily

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Brazoom, Feb. 17th. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.

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As to the work here we feel its very great importance, & the uncertainty of leaving it, more as Mr. & Mrs. Stapleton are new to it & may possibly be left alone in case of our withdrawal. But that was the possibility last year & was under consideration at that time & is not a new element in the question.

Dr. Burton.

 (Exm. Feb. 17. 98)

It is a very desirable thing to have in hand as definite ideas on the question as possible in order to be ready for definite representations to the An.Meets.,& also that both ourselves & Mr. Stapleton may be able to make as definite plans as possible for the future. It makes very considerable difference in all plans, whether we remain or go,& the sooner it is known the better for all concerned.

I have already given you my impressions of Mr.Stapleton. I have only reason to confirm my quite favorable opinion of him already formed.He is busy on the language, which he rightly makes his first duty,while he gives some assistance to the schools.

We are all in very good health. The baby who was somewhat ailing some days ago is now very well indeed.

With cordial salutations,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Chambers.

Chambers, W. H.

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We are all in very good health. The baby who was somewhat ailing some days ago is now very well indeed.

With cordial salutations,

Yours very truly,

Wm. Schaufler.

Orig. mailing, 1928

3-17-98
31

263

Erzroom, Feb. 21st. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.

Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Today I have received from Van the vote on the Mosul question. Rather I should say a part of the vote. The Mardin station started a vote which included, as I remember it, the asumption of the whole Mosul station. That I sent on to Bitlis & Van& it was not sent back to me. The vote started by Harpoot is as follows:- "Voted, that, if the Presbyterian Board abandons Mosul, we recommend that the American Board resume the work there". This has received three votes in the negative which would defeat it even if Mardin signatures were on it in the affermative. No commentary accompanied the negative votes.

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

Egypt, Feb. 21/98

3-28-98
31

1 264

Erzroom, March 3rd. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Sometimes from unexpected quarters is illustrated the truth of the promise "Cast thy bread on the waters and it shall return to thee after many days", affording at once encouragement and reproof. Encouragement in seeing the result of effort put forth, even though it be after many days; reproof for doubting faith and complaining attitude. Often the ground on which the seed is sown may appear stony, but there is stony ground that may be crumbled to rich soil by frost and rain or even violent storms - severe trials indeed, but "blessings in disguise."

Having been so long alone in Erzroom Station and burdened with work, I have not been able to visit the outstations as they ought to have been visited. In fact some of them have not been visited since the late troubles. ~~These~~ Periodical visitations to the outstations by the missionary are of the highest importance for the welfare of the work in which we are engaged, as you so well know.

At times, however, these visitations become impossible, as in the present case. At such times it is very encouraging to see that the seed sown in years gone by continues to grow and bear fruit, showing that, even if we cannot at all times carry out our plans, the work goes on.

The other day I enjoyed a visit from one of our oldest and most faithful pastors, who has been labouring for years in the Pasin district. ~~I had heard that a good~~ work was in progress amongst the outstations under his pastoral care. ~~But~~ I was not prepared for the report he gave as I asked him for the figures for the Tabular View for 1897.

Some years ago the late Sec'y. Clark called the attention of the station to some of the outstations which seemed to be giving very little for the support of Gospel Institutions in their midst. At the same time it was suggested that when the people, for any reason, refused or failed to assume the burdens of the work, it became necessary to consider the question of withdrawl from such place, or at least the refusal of financial assistance. People must be made to realize that such institutions must depend on themselves for support. The station added Dr. Clark's caution to what it had already tried to impress on the people, not only of Komatsor, but also of Todoveren, another outstation of the same district under the pastoral care of Pastor Avidisian. Financial assistance was withdrawn. Later the pastor resigned, because it was impossible for him to live on the support rendered him. His resignation was accepted and he opened a store in company with his two sons in the village, and thus supported himself and family. He was, however, most faithful in the discharge of his Christian duties, and continued his efforts as a Christian worker.

Erzroom,March 3rd.1898.

Rev.J.L.Barton,D.D.
Boston,Mass.

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Some years ago the late Sec'y. Clark called the attention of the station to some of the outstations which seemed to be giving very little for the support of Gospel Institutions in their midst. At the same time it was suggested that when the people,for any reason, refused or failed to assume the burdens of the work, it became necessary to consider the question of withdrawl from such place, or at least the refusal of financial assistance. People must be made to realize that such institutions must depend on themselves for support. The station added Dr.Clark's caution to what it had already tried to impress on the people , not only of Komastor, but also of Todover, another outstation of the same district under the pastoral care of Pastor Avdistan. Financial assistance was withdrawn. Later the pastor resigned, because it was impossible for him to live on the support rendered him. His resignation was accepted and he opened a store in company with his two sons in the village, and thus supported himself and family. He was, however, most faithful in the discharge of his Christian duties, and continued his efforts as

Christian worker. Indeed he was a pastor to the people in almost every respect - though without compensation. Later the opportunities for work in other villages seemed so important that Mr. Avidisian was engaged as general evangelist for the whole district, in which capacity he did most excellent work. In the spring of 1890 his wife was shot down in cold blood on the roof of her house during an attack by a band of koordish robbers in the daytime on the store still kept by the pastor's sons. This left the care of three or four small children to him and prevented him from visiting other villages as he had been doing. He turned his attention once again to the work amongst the people of the two villages which had formerly been under his pastoral care. They had been left much to their own devices during the time that he had been acting as general evangelist. They had several times petitioned the station to allow the pastor to become their pastor again, and had been refused. It was only the force of circumstances, which made it necessary for the pastor to spend most of his time in their midst on account of his children, that obtained the consent of the station to his giving most of his time to his former work as pastor, for it had been virtually decided to abandon Komatsor at least. The pastor worked hard and faithfully. It was with no little satisfaction and praise to God for his goodness that he presented his report the other day.

In Todoveren the Sabbath audiences had greatly enlarged. The number of pupils in school had so increased that an assistant had become necessary to the regular teacher. A few years one of the brethren had adopted the principle of tything the produce on his threshing-floor for Gospel work. During the year some others had virtually adopted the plan, and others were likely to adopt it. Four new members had been received into church membership, and the spirit of the people was most encouraging, particularly on the part of the younger people.

But the marvel appeared in Komatsor. In 1896 the report shows a Protestant community of 10 persons and a church membership of 7, and a condition of work that seemed to give little or no promise for the future. In 1897 however shows a marvelous change. The 10 of the Protestant community became 100, and the church membership rose from 7 to 24. The building used for school and chaple had fallen into disrepair The people having a "mind to work" repaired it, spending, in their poverty and distress, about 600 piasters (about $26.00.), and put it into very good condition as a school and place of worship. The school has taken a new lease of life and is in good form. Though there has been considerable opposition on the part of other residents of the village, the people have shown themselves actuated by a good spirit, and have shown a zeal that affords encouraging promise for the future.

About six months ago I received a visit from a deputation of the people of this village They came to present their cause and ask that the work should be reorganised, and a preacher placed in the village. These half dozen men showed a subdued, yet earnest spirit that commanded my attention at once. One of the number was an aged grey haired man whom I recognized as a former opponent of the Gospel work. His changed attitude and conve

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conversation greatly impressed me, and I was not surprised to hear that later he had been received into communion with the church that he once persecuted. " Cast thy bread upon the waters and it shall return to thee after many days." Be not weary in well-doing , for in due season thou shalt reap if thou faint not".

This Erzroum church have not been able to find a pastor yet more come forth-coming. Do you know of one in U.S. that prepared to return to Turkey moved with this work? If you do let me know.

The Erzingan church is also without a pastor & the church is not in a good condition. The need there is very great & the work is receiving great injury. I can't find a man to send there.

Kindest regards
Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

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Engroomy Mar. 3, '98

March 23. 1898 Erzroom
Turkey.

Rev. E. E. Strong D.D.
Boston,

APR 18 1898

Dear Dr. Strong,

I forward you the Tab. View of Erzroom Station for 1897. Noting the circumstances of the year, smallness of missionary force, & almost entire lack of touring - difficulty of obtaining sufficient native workers - the deplorable condition of the country in every respect - &c - the Tab. View makes a good showing; very much better than I dared to hope for when I began the work of compilation. It shows that there is considerable vigor in the work, notwithstanding the peculiarly most trying experiences, & present almost hopeless outlook. The additions to the church in new membership is not as we wish it were. But the one notable item is the addition of 17 persons in Komatsor which had only 7 members in '96. This was a place about which we had become almost hopeless. However even dry bones may live. The contributions are very encouraging indicating a certain amount

of zeal, even in the distress of the people. The average attendance is also encouraging, & is also the school work. As I look over these statistics I am more & more impressed with the magnificent opportunity afforded of carrying forward this great work; and at the same time the inadequateness of the force & funds. To mention only one example. Miss Knapp has kindly taken charge of the school for the term of '97-8. She leaves this summer, & return to Battis. There is no one we know of to take her place. Not only that, both two of the teachers - the two head teachers got married the other day & the school is in danger of being very seriously crippled to the very great detriment of the most important work its is now accomplishing. The appropriation of the W.B.M.U. for woman's work in Smyrna for 1898 is £117.60. At the lowest estimate possible it will cost us 140 £. If during the year the expenses decrease, that deficit may be covered, which can only be by the decrease of the work, while it ought to be on the increase & actually is on the increase. I for one dare not put forth a hand to retard its growth in order to force it into the measure of the appropriation.

With sincerest regards

Yours truly W. H. Chambers.

P.S. I have only one more flat view of Smyrna left. Please send a number

APR 18 1898

L.I.B.
Rec'd 4-18-98
Ans'd 20

Erzroom. March. 26. '98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Yours of Feb 18th. at hand. I do not hear fr. Mardin on Am. Mtg. yet & so do not know their mind. I honestly hope they will not hold back. However the meeting will likely be made up for the most part of the younger men of the mission. I wished that Dr. Barnum or Dr. Raynolds or Mr. Andruse might be present. I am sending the Erzroom Lab. View. & Dr. Strong as it would appear it goes to him. You will see it. It is on the whole encouraging. But now the lack of men - good leading men - is a great want. Is there not a man - two of them - in Am. that would help out - One for Erzroom & one for Erzegan.

But to day I want to call your attention to a matter in appropriations - more particularly of the W.B.M.I. By vote of the mission Erzroom should have 22% of the entire amt. of the appropriation for woman's work. The W.B.M.I. appropriates to us $517.44 which is less than 13% of the entire amt. appr'd. to the mission - that being $4026.02. But this

percentage should be 18% of her appr. fr. the W.B.M. is $739. which is a little over the 18%. Van's percent. is 11%, her approp. is $770. fr. the W.B.M. which is a little over 19%. &c. Hpt. & Mardin out stations get each 25%, while Hpt. gets $1216. & Mardin $782. This is partly due to the fact that estimates were not in as they ought to have been. Also because Erzroom is under the W.B.M.S. and the other stations under the W.B.M. Now the appr. of the W.B.M.S. for Erzroom is $517.60. This is not sufficient to cover the expense of the girl's school. However we do not propose to cut down, because we can't. We hope we may not be involved in the fall. We wrote to the lady you mentioned in Persia those both a favourable answer. But the W.B.M.S. ought to feel that this work can't go on without a proper person to carry it on. They rather discourage us by saying that funds are too low to send out new missionaries. The work must go on whether the W.B.M.S. does it or not. I am sure you are doing all you can.

We are having a round of creeds - quite prevalent now. Nothing of interest to note - only the awful economical outlook. What is one man's poison is another man's food. This land seems to live on disaster & poverty. The war scares are of course rife, but evidently little probability that any blood may flow.

Yours very truly, W.N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Mar. 26, 96

4-24-98
28

267

Erzroom. April. 2. '98.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

I enclose you final returns on the Am. Mtg. question embodied in a note to the mission. The Mardin people say; "Each one voted independently of the others; & still we were all actuated by the same motive. Know, then, that the deciding feature in our minds was, not that an Am. Meeting is not ~~a necessity~~ desirable, nor that an Meeting is not a necessity, but that, in the present financial straits of the Board it is not good economy to spend 100 L.T. upon an Am. Meeting."

As the vote received a majority I have reported as per the enclosed. I fear the Mardin vote may damp the rather halfhearted interest of some others of the mission. However this objection may not last long. The Mardin people admit that Am. meeting is a necessity & possibly that idea may gain ground. It is to be hoped that Mr Andrus & Dr Barnum or Dr. Gates will be present.

I have been hoping for a word from you

that would throw some light on our question. The financial question complicates that very greatly, but this present arrangement may not be good economy. I may be over anxious, but past experience makes one dread a repetition. I am glad to say Mrs. Chambers has recovered marvelously fr. the typhoid. She tries to be careful of herself, is in fairly good form, but she has already lost some of the nervous tone she had gained in her absence. Palpitation is much more frequent & a nervous feeling that is also more frequent seems to me to indicate a slightly lowered nervous tone. It seems to me this is loss. We are willing to run risks, but at the same time anxious to avoid those that may be avoided.

With cordial salutations,

Yours very truly
W. R. Chambers.

Best wishes for Easter-tide.

Bryn Mawr, Apr. 29, 78

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-2-98
Ans'd 3

Ezzroom April 5th 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Barton,

Last Sat. (the 2nd inst.) I reported to you the result of the vote on An. Mtg. the vote is carried, but whether there is enough enthusiasm or not to bring about a meeting remains to be seen. I cant think of anything else I can do to insure it.

This morning yours of March 15th came to hand. The impression went forth that Mr. Ashdown was primarily appointed "to succeed Mr Ellis" at Harpoot. That is evidently the impression that the Harpoot friends received, judging from their letters. However the succession would be to the mission. If there is an An. Mtg. the question will in all probability come up for discussion. Mr Ashdown is in a trying place, & it is possible that it is too much for him. That was one feeling I had when I suggested the return of Mr. Knapp, if it could be possibly brought about. It is a great misfortune that Mr. A. has no gentleman associate of some experience at Leach. That remark casts no reflection on the Ely ladies at all, but there are a number of

small questions entering into the matter. Is Mr. Cole likely to return this fall?

I was glad to get your views on Mrs. Chamberlain's - or I should rather say - our question. I spoke of it in my letter on Saturday - asking for your views. The question now turns greatly on the financial condition. ~~The~~ therefore wish to add to what I said on Sat. that if the Exec. Com. can assure the W.F.M. that the added expense of our joining the mission ~~would not~~ would not be a burden to their salary appropriation already overburdened the way would open at once. That is to say that if the P.C. would increase that appr. by that amt. all objection would be removed. If that cannot be done the transfer would seem to be blocked. As I understand it the W.F.M. await that assurance from the P.C. in order to enable them to take action. I fear very much that the P.C. cannot give that assurance because of the financial stress. As I said on Sat. I think Mrs Chamberlain is suffering a slight retrograde movement - She is in good form still & probably will continue to be for considerable time. She continues her work, & does it all. My anxiety is that she should not loose <u>too much</u>. As we have waited for for three or four years, we still wait & hope that the way will open & we may be guided by the Lord.

Yours truly
W.H. Chamberlin.

Rev. Wm. H. Chamberlin
Bridgeton, Yarmouth Co.
Sept 5/78

5-23-98
25

Erzroom. April 26. 1898

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have to acknowledge your favors of April 1st & 7th. We are glad to know that all members of the mission are planning to return to the field. Erzroom will be glad to get her share of the reinforcement. Her perplexity is only increased by the news that there is no hope of a recruit for the school. There is a little satisfaction in the thought that the W.B.M.I. has at last made a definite proposition showing that it has given some serious attention to the question. That society has treated the school with scant sympathy & assistance & it does not speak well for it that it has been so long under obligations to the W.B.M. for its lady missionaries. And now after all this time it has had to make provision it has to fall back on the W.B.M. & vote to have Miss Knapp remain. Miss K's remaining is all very well as far as Erzroom is concerned. But we of Erzroom feel that we have gone as far as propriety would allow, & have taxed the generosity of Britis to the full extent in keeping Miss K. for the current

year. In conversation with the Ely ladies I could easily see how difficult it was for them to consent & how it disarranged their plans to have Miss Knapp remain away for a year. I feel all the more now the very great importance of Miss K's going to their assistance. They will have a hard struggle over the question & I am sure they have faith & grace & submission enough to consent. But I feel very strongly it is more than enough to be asked. I feel this all the more, because I feel that it might have been avoided. Miss Chambers left here in the spring of '95, i.e. three years ago. If zero has been the result of the efforts of the W.B.M.I. for three years, what may be expected from "best efforts" in three months? I would simply leave the Ely ladies without assistance. It seems to me that if Ezroom School were transferred to the W.B.M. it would in all probability fare better, & it would bring it into line with the other schools of the mission which are all under the W.B.M. The question will come up at An. Mtg. & have its due consideration. While Ezroom will be glad if Miss K. remains, & while from this point of time it appears that the school will suffer disaster if she does not remain, I cannot think that the question will carry. I for one cannot urge it on the

Bitis people.

A word in reference to the matter of a preacher for this place. It has not been that the people were not anxious for a pastor that they have not secured one, but because one could not be found. Search has been made in Cé'ple. Marash, Harpoot, Marsovan, other places. One man was actually called from the Bitis field & he did not come. The people are on the track of two men now. I have used this opportunity to urge home some wholesome truths. Last year I started out with the proposition that the Com. should look after the Wednesday eve. Prayer meeting & one service on Sunday. They found this difficult & did not respond as they should & I then threatened to put the other Sunday service on them also. They finally came to the point of assuming those two services. Their great cry arose that the first thing was to have a pastor. I replied by saying that a pastor could not be found at once, & that it was their duty to shoulder the responsibility till a pastor could be found. This burden has been a spur to their desire, & the outcome has reconciled me to the retention of the mid-day Sunday service in my own hands. It seems to me much has

been done in developing the feeling of responsibility on the part of the church for church affairs. They had allowed the former pastors to do all that work. I have worked hard to make the people feel their responsibility for all the interests of the church. I think much has been gained & I hope the pastor when he is elected will keep up this idea & not allow the people to "lie down upon him". We hope that Mr. Millard will be here in a few days. We trust that the same blessings will attend his work as have attended it in other places.

I note what you say about your communication with W.T.M. as to your transfer. I doubt if they have a man to exchange for me. My sal. for the current year would go with me. The pinch would come in '99. If it could be provided then the arrangement for transfer could be easily made. I am becoming convinced that Mrs. Chambers should not remain here another year if it can be possibly avoided. Some of her old discouraging symptoms are returning. It is not safe to remain.

Yours truly,
W.H. Chambers.

Bryan, Apr. 2 '98

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-31-98
Ans'd 6-23

Erzroom May 7th 1898

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Mr. Millard is with us just now. We have had two meetings a day for three days, all well attended & considerable quick interest shown. He remains with us for Sunday & plans to pass on to Sivas on Monday. Was it not that the Am. Mtg. is to convene in 3 weeks I would go on to Erzrum with him. We have a man - Br Hawthorne of Bitlis, who is going to Erzrum temporarily & will go there with Mr Millard. We have greatly enjoyed Mr Millard's presence.

A thought comes to me very forcibly & I put it before you believing that you will consider it carefully. That thought is - why not ask Mr. Millard to make a missionary tour of the American churches, as he has of the mission stations of Turkey? He has seen the missionaries in their homes & at their work; he has seen the work & its needs: he has seen the opportunities for aggressive work: he has seen the terrible devastation, & both the good & evil results of it: he has examined

the relief work done & the outcome of it; he has become familiar with all the inwards of the orphan work & its golden opportunities. He has gone through all this with a power of keen observation sanctified by broad sympathy, prayer & grace. This thought has come to me so strongly that I feel it my duty bring it upon you & the Rend. Com. I believe it would be conducive of the greatest results. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to accompany him on such a tour, but of course that is impossible & cannot dream of it. I feel convinced that his presentation of the question to the churches would have peculiar power.

His principle is to trust the Lord for guidance & funds for his expenses. His every effort is to simply follow the Lord's guidance & he only has been guided in a wonderful way. I do not think the tour would cost the Board any money, & I'm sure it would develop such a spirit & interest as would increase greatly the contributions & greatly improve the appreciation of this missionary work done by the American churches, i.e. the churches would get a clearer idea of the work they are doing through the missionaries.

Give this your best thought & reach Mr Millard at his home in England with a call to make such a tour

in the autumn. He goes on from here to Sivas Marsovan, Samsoun, C'ple. & Smyrna. He has been trying to arrange so as to meet a possible invitation to Caesarea, but it is much out of the way & he has had no call as yet.

His address is

Mr. Edward C. Millard
Tauchou Lodge
(Near) Tarbane
England.

He plans to be in Sivas by the 20th of this month & goes on as rapidly as the Lord will let him to his home for which he has been absent since last Sept.

P.S. I was not going to say any thing more about Mrs. Chambers' health; but as for some time she has been a little more troubled than usual with increase in head trouble we called Dr Grosman. He said her symptoms were all nervous & she had lost ground - not being as well now in that respect as she was after her typhoid. He prescribed some medicine, but said that the only proper prescription would be change of climate. I merely add this that you may have the latest news. I do not wish to be too anxious or too urgent.

Mr. J. V. Chambers,
Bingroom, May 7, 98

J. L. B.
Rec'd 6-4-98
Ans'd 23

Erzroom May 11. 98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

At the annual meeting of the Eastern Turkey Mission held at Mardin in the Spring of 1894 - the last meeting of the mission - you were appointed to preach the sermon at the next meeting, to be held at Erzroom. The meeting is called to convene at Erzroom on June 6th. of this year. I therefore remind you of your appointment. I need not add that I can assure you that it would afford the members of the mission unfeigned pleasure if you were able to fill the appointment, thereby being present to take part in the deliberations of the mission also.

Word fr. Mardin reports that Mr & Mrs Andrews Mr Larkin were appointed delegates. Though Mardin voted negative - they seem to be ready to do their best to make the meeting a good one. Dr. Raynolds expects to come fr. Van. We once had hope that Dr Barnum would come from Harpoot. We may come yet. We anticipate a good meeting though it may be small.

Mr. Willard left us on Monday on his

way to Sivas via Erzingan. We enjoyed his visit greatly & it did us all good. The meetings were not so great as in other places, nor was the same interest manifested. However I think there was a very strong influence exerted by his very plain very logical very earnest & spiritual presentation of the truth. Would that we had a good pastor to follow up the impulses.

We are all as usual. I made a suggestion - or rather a proposition - in my last to you to the effect that Mr. Millard be invited to visit the Am. churches in the interest of foreign missionary work. You cannot do better.

May 17. This note has been delayed. We get word from Supt. that probably Dr. Barnum, Miss B. & Mr. Browne may come to meeting. The outlook is hopeful for a good meeting. Mr. Stapleton writes again this morning about Miss Bushnell. This also is hopeful. This would be a great blessing. Find another lady for Bitlis & send both out this autumn & carry out the proposition for Miss K. to remain here. The proposition has evidently greatly distressed the Ely ladies, but they show a noble spirit, & if a new lady is found for their assistance they may become satisfied.

Yours truly

W. H. Chambers.

Erzroom, May 11, '98

6-18 98
23

Erzroom. May 24. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton,

Your favors of April 28. & May 3rd are at hand. The latter came this morning. We are actively preparing for An. Mtg. A note fr. Dr. Barnum states that Mr. Anderson telegraphed proposing to drop the meeting. He (Dr. B.) replied that the "meeting was necessary." I think this will be the last objection. We have every hope that we may have a good meeting.

We note the questions you mention in. They will duly come before the meeting. We rejoice in the prospect of recruits. Mrs. Chambers, who is acquainted with Miss Lord, urges the appointment of Miss Lord to Erzroom. Mrs. Chambers says that Miss Lord's preferences are for evangelistic work which she enjoys much more than school work. Mr. Shapleton is writing you about this question & I would simply emphasize the great need of that work in this station. There are marvelous opportunities here for this work. To mention but one. Mrs. Chambers has a S. School in our house. Last Sunday there were 130 persons (women & girls) the great majority of whom were Gregorians. There is a branch in the boys school, now

under the care of Mr. Stapleton, at which were present as many children. This alone opens a great field for evangelistic work which has been very greatly neglected because there has been no one to do it. If Miss L. would come with that in view it would be in the way of supplying one of the crying needs of this place. The work of Misses Seymour & Buck in Harpoot is better known to you & you appreciate the value of it. Had it not been done what a hinderance to Eph. work would have resulted! Erzroom needs the same work, & has not had it, hence one reason for its backwardness. The question will come up before Am. Mtg. but we write to prepare your mind & Miss Lord's for a call to Erzroom. We trust Miss Buchnell will also be appointed. She is a special friend of Mr. Stapleton. Let her be appointed also.

Erzroom, Nov. 24, '98

I note what you say about the question of our transfer. It eases the way greatly. I would be delighted to see aditional reinforcements at work here before leaving. I have not heard fr. the W.F.M. on the question. I trust they will say something before the meeting is over.

We have the reading of the London Times kept a good deal of war news. The attitude is interesting here. The T's. feel as they had been beaten - evidently a guilty conscience. The A's. can't conceal their delight that the rights of some oppressed people are being vindicated. The Catholics A's. pray for Spain.

Yours truly W.N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-11-98
Ans'd 21

Erzroom June 17. '98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

I need say no more about Ann. Mtg. You will get good reports. The minutes & mission letter go with this post. The Bitlis Tab. View is not in yet & I only got some of the others at the mtg. I had the Summary for the Bitlis Tab. view. I have not heard fr. the Com on Ln. yet. But the thought forming in my mind is about as follows:- If the W.T.M. invites & arrangements can be made favourable for Mrs. C. for the winter, say to spend the winter - boarding - at Hiccar - where Lalcott could go to the Prep. Dept. of Robt. College - I would send her on there early in the fall & remain here till Mr. & Mrs Stapleton get well settled - say till near New Year. I do not want to detain Mrs C. here late, nor do not want to leave early myself, till I see Mr. S. well started. I am waiting for word fr. Cesée.

I do not think Mrs. C. got over tired. The intensity of the enjoyment was great.

You ask for judgment about Mr. Ashdown. I have not written about the question as I have not been able to see any present remedy. You will notice that a delegation was appointed to

visit Britis. You will have their report. I am sorry to say Mr. A. has not made a good impression. He was very lacking in attention to the Misses Ely on the journey which has produced a very painful impression indeed. He was also lacking in courtesy to Mr. Millard. While he was here I took occasion to say to him that to be successful in exerting a good influence one must have & show a sympathetic consideration for those with & for whom he is working. If good will & sympathy is wanting, good influence can not be exerted as it ought to be. He seemed to assent cordially to my proposition. But it is sad to say that he has been utterly lacking in these very characteristics. I would judge they are lacking in his make up. I fear very much that he is altogether too self centered to make a good missionary. The Ely ladies begged that the meeting should take no definite action, so nothing more was done than appoint the delegation.

I am sorry to say this of Mr. A. but justice compels it. He has undoubted ability & may in the long run make a good missionary, but to that point I fear the way is long.

With cordial regards

Yours truly W. H. Clements.

P.S. We hope you received the cablegram in re Miss Lord & Miss Burgess. The meeting was very unanimous & we showed some line. We hope that Miss Burdwell is also under appointment, & you will note that the missionary has legal status. We are [illegible]

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-18-98
Ans'd 21

Erzroom June 23. '98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr Barton,

I said last week that I would hand the Lab. view summary for the Bitlis report. But I fear it will be late if it can be sent on later. You may need this for your report. So I forward today. I also find that my Station Report for Erzroom was not sent on. This also I enclose. In addition I send on Erzroom Sch. Report, Van Report &c &c.

You will hear fr. the chairman of the Finance Com. Mr Andrus. He will report on the Sal. appropriation for the current year. The sense of the meeting seemed to be that the basis laid down by the mission should guide treasurers in charging appts. for sals. this year. I have therefore done so for Jan. June as follows.

W. H. Chambers. £ 177. + 25% children = £ 221.25 ~~less H.~~
less 11.06 5% cut = 210.09. ½ year. 105.04.
R. S. Stapleton £ 88.50 less 4.22, 5% cut. 84.28 " 42.14
Sals. for ½ year. 147.18

This includes rent which is 713 for me & 357 for Mr. Stapleton. In reference to this I would like to call your attention to this fact concerning Mr.

Stapleton. He is now on a single salary making preparations for housekeeping. For instance he will have to put in 25 £ worth of wood this month. This will leave him only 17 £ for the rest of the year. I would suggest that he be allowed to draw the full amt. appropriated, or ~~Mrs. Stap~~ an amount be appropriated for sal. of Mrs. Stapleton for bal. of year after her arrival on the field - probably (3½ mos) so that they may be able to start out the new year as little embarrassed as possible. He has been assisting his wife somewhat also which makes it harder for him.

With kindest regards

Yours truly,

W. H. Chambers.

Erzroom, June 23, '98

Salaries

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-15-98
Ans'd 21

Erzroom, June 24. '98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

I greatly regret to have to refer often to the question so nearly affecting us. But it dont seem to settle. Were I sure that our remaining here for the winter was the safe thing & proper thing to do I could settle it forthwith. But the conditions give me grave pause. This mission kindly put the question in such a way that I may retain connection with this mission as long as circumstances will permit. I highly appreciate the very kind action of the mission. But I am still in doubt as to what I may do. I have just received from Dr. Dwight a note informing me of the action of the Com. ad Int. based on your suggestion. As I understand it the W.F.M. will not endorse reinforcements in the present financial difficulties. They the Com. ad Int. have no warrant to ask for Smyrna. The Com. could only give its adhesion to your suggestion that I be invited to Smyrna, but it could not invite. In the meantime Smyrna does not - or has not - declared its pleasure. If Mr. McNaughton is going home on furlough he will be absent a year & presume that would afford me time to get settled somewhere. Without direct instructions from Boston the W.F.M. will not invite

me while the finances are as they are. I suppose it is not the question of my salary so much as it is the lack of funds to enable the present force to carry on the work in hand. A larger force would support more work for which funds are lacking. Possibly Smyrna may invite, that would give temporary relief. If not & we remain here for the winter I fear a furlough in the spring will be necessary for Mrs. Chambers. This I am most anxious to avoid.

The present uncertainty is quite trying, as it is time to make preparation for winter & if we remain the Stapleforts would make different plans than they would if we go. We wait with what patience we can & trust the Lord will make the way clear enough to enable us to follow it without doubt.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Telegram
June 24, '98

J. L. D.
Rec'd 7-29-98
Ans'd

276

Erzroom June 27. '98

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

I have received the "Lab. view totals" for Bitlis & Mr. Ashdown. I enclose them. You can add them to the "Totals" I sent you last week for the mission. The blanks are all exhausted. Will you kindly see that they are sent to each station for the next report on statistics.

Yours very truly
W. H. Chambers.

Erzroom. June 27, '98

Proposed Uniform Statistics for the Annual Reports of all Foreign Missions Abroad.

June 1897 (1898?)

NAME OF STATION, ~~TOWN OR VILLAGE~~. Bitlis.
WHEN ESTABLISHED. 1858. A.D.
POPULATION OF FIELD. 350,000.
MISSIONARIES. 7 in all
2 Ordained. R.M.C. & C.R.A.
Unordained (not physicians).
Physicians (men).
Physicians (women).
3 Single Women. Miss Ely. Miss K.
2 Wives. Mrs C. Mrs A.
7 Total.

NATIVE HELPERS.
1 Ordained Preachers.
7 Unordained Preachers.
10 Teachers (men).
7 Teachers (women).
2 Bible Women.
6 Other Native Helpers.
33 Total.

CHURCH STATISTICS.
11 Out-Stations—Places of Regular Meeting.
7 Organized Churches.
0 Churches Entirely Self-Supporting.
63 Communicants.
7 Added by Confession.
600 Adherents.
400 Attendance.
5 Sabbath-Schools.
400 Sabbath-School Membership.

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.
0 Theological Schools.
0 Students for the Ministry.
0 Students in Collegiate Training.
2 Boarding and High Schools—
40 Pupils (boys).
25 Pupils (girls).
10 Other Schools—
385 Pupils (boys).
200 Pupils (girls).
650 Total under Instruction.
0 Schools Entirely Self-Supporting.
× United with Church during Year.
6 CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

NATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.

For Church and Congregational Expenses.	L.T. 25.
For Education.	10.
For Building and Repairs.	–
For Home and Foreign Missions.	5.
Total Contributions.	L.T. 40 = $ 176.00

APPROPRIATED BY BOARD.
For Churches and Education (Native Work).

Chas R. Stoddard.

To be included in the "Summary" for the Mission for '97.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SELF-SUPPORT IN MISSION CHURCHES.

The three resolutions concerning self-support adopted by the Conference in January, 1897, were in the nature of instructions to its Committee. It was ordered that the Committee should secure from the several Boards composing the Conference such information as: Sum total of appropriation, total expense of administration, appropriations for missionaries, for native workers, and the amount contributed by the native church. Responses have been secured from a majority of the Boards.

It was also ordered that another letter be sent the missionaries commending their efforts, and, at the same time, requesting them to furnish as full statistical reports as possible. The following circular letter was forwarded through the Secretaries of the various Boards and Societies:

To the Beloved Missionaries of the American Churches.

NEW YORK, March 9, 1897.

DEAR BRETHREN: In acknowledging the receipt of a large number of valuable statistical reports from various mission stations, this Committee wishes to express its appreciation of the care with which they have been made out. May we call the attention of those who have not yet sent in reports to the statistical blanks sent out again last year? They are sent in a roll so as to preserve them in good shape for use for the next three to five years. If your station or mission has not done so already, will you kindly have the blanks filled out at your earliest convenience and sent to your own Board? Please fill in the statistical columns as far as you have the information and arrange to collect the data for your future reports as quickly as possible.

There has been some complaint of the difficulty of separating the church from school rents, the same building generally being used for both purposes, and "building" from "repairs." Where a day-school is incidental to a church, rent is not usually charged against the school; and where the building is rented primarily for a school there is seldom any charge made for religious services. There is really little value in estimating the rent on the smaller day-schools where the rent really should be charged to congregational expenses. By adding

Rec'd 9-6-98
Ans'd 13

Camp "Ishki"
Erzroom, Aug 12. '98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston,

Dear Dr Barton,

Yours of July 21st at hand this morning. Mrs. Chambers feels very greatly distressed at the impression Miss Lord received from the letter she wrote. We earnestly hope that your words entirely reassured her. Mrs. Chambers does not recall the wording of her letter, but the prominent thought in her mind was that Miss Lord – as Mrs. Chambers remembered it – much preferred evangelistic work for women. She (Mrs C) was delighted at at the prospect of Miss Lord's coming & in order to give what encouragement she could she wished her to understand that that there was a wide open door for evangelistic work if she (Miss L.) was disposed to enter it. It contemplated no station action & consequently involved no question of decision as to Miss L's work. She will find a full work in school which she comes to take immediate care of. Her continuance in that will depend largely on her own preferences

which may be modified by the circumstances of the work. Mrs. Li's. mention of two years was occasioned by the thought that if Miss L. should prefer evangelistic work, a new lady missionary would require that time to be able to assume charge of the school.

We were greatly delighted at the news of the appointment of Miss Bushnell. We hope she may be able to come with the party.

Miss Knapp is preparing to go on to Bitlis - starting next Tuesday. The first thought was for her to remain till after schools opened & the Am. party arrived & she could then pass the work over to Miss Ford & then proceed to Bitlis. However, on the thought of the Ely ladies being alone in the city & Miss Charlotte not being well it was decided that her assistance there was greater in need than here & Erzroom's debt to the Ely ladies was heavy enough already, & so she goes on at once. Mr. Stapleton accompanies her to Bitlis. He will return in time to proceed to Trebizond to meet the western party there.

We are in tents & hope to remain for a couple of weeks more. This outing does

not seem to have secured the desired result. All of us seem a little "under the weather", but we may feel the gain in the next two weeks. I myself have not felt so useless in a long time. I have been troubled somewhat with stomach & bowels, in addition boils have been "comforting" me, one of them the largest & most severe one I have ever had. I think these are the results of malaria for which I have been dosing with quinine. Schools open in a couple of weeks & I hope to be all ready to get to work by that time. I had hoped I could relegate that work to some one else this fall, but it comes back to me.

I note what you say about the matter of our transfer, & wonder what you will think when you get our decision. I hope I have not made a mistake in deciding to remain for the winter. At the same time I hope that what arrangement may be made for transfer may be available next Spring. We have become accustomed to the shock of the affair. Mr. S. has borne himself well & it has had evidently a great effect on him.

The vote on Mr. Ashdown's resignation passed here. It had Dr. Thom's signature in the negative. Dr. Raynolds will surely vote in the ~~neg~~ aff. In which

case the vote will be in the affirmative. I cant understand why Mr. Andrews should have raised the question of Mr. A's. being invited to another station. The vote for the acceptance of the resignation would give the mind of the mission with sufficient clearness & it would have avoided the necessity of plainly saying that Mr. A. was not wanted in the mission by any station. I would have said it would have been better not to have that on record. It is plain that the Mission does not want Mr A. to remain in its bounds.

We rejoice in the prospect of peace which we imagine is already established. We rejoice in the new outlook on the part of the U.S. people – the U.S. has now become a "world power". To my mind this is the grandest result of the war. I earnestly hope that nothing will give that impetus a set back. Now for the maintainance of that magnificent moral influence she has gained in the world may the hand of the Lord guide her.

With cordial regards

Yours truly

W. H. Chambers.

Aug 13. 96.

P.S. The usual apportionment for Am. Mtg. expense was arranged. The portion that was assigned to Ezroom was 12 £. This I charged as usual to Mr Reed in the June Semi-An. a/c. He throws it out on the ground that he has no authority from Boston for accepting Am. Mtg. charge. We in the meeting took it for granted that the usual Am. Mtg. appr. was available. You will remember it was £100 for the mission. Will you kindly look this up & issue the usual instructions to Mr. Reed.

Yours W. H. C.

Erzroom, Aug. 12, '98

9-26-98
10-14

Erzroom. Sept. 6. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr Barton,

Your favor of Aug 3rd came to hand this morning. I have only a moment to reply. We returned from tents a week ago. The Dr. recommends that we go to Eljek for a week to use Baby baths in the mineral waters. He says that two baths a day would be helpful to me. We are just starting out. The baby has been troubled with a rash all summer. She has also granulated eyelids & has suffered much. The eyes seem to be recovering however. I note what you say about the question of our transfer. I received a telegram f. Mr. Macallum saying I would receive an invitation through Mr Reid, to spend a year in Adana. You may imagine the very great trial this is to us that as the way opens for us from that side it is closed from this. You doubtless have received letters detailing the reasons that have led me to decide to take the risk of another winter here. I have suggested to you in other letters that Mr. Allen might come here. I await your reply before

letters. As to the question of Van or Harpoot I would say, that Van is of considerable elevation though somewhat lower than Erzroom, Harpoot is still lower than Van. However the circumstances in those places are even more trying from other points of view for residence, Besides I am under the impression that the Dr's. idea was that a level as near sea level as possible would be the most desirable. The brethren at the late meeting were evidently of the impression that any of the interior stations would not afford ~~circumstances or~~ conditions as favourable as would be desirable for Mrs. Chambers & Kate.

Our schools opened on Thursday. Conditions seem favourable. We secured a High Sch. teacher for the girls school fr. Sivas. She appears very well. We are fortunate in securing the services of Pompeich Nazloo of Keshi to superintend the orphan work. She is doing already most excellent work in the school also. I hope Miss Lord will find things in good condition when she comes. I have already written you as to the matter of Mrs. Chambers' letter which evidently led her seriously to consider the question of not coming to Erzroom. This causes me

no little surprise. However it I trust is a past question.

With kindest regards & congratulations on your new office. "May you wear them out in peace"!

Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

Orphans' Court, 1878

10-18-98
19

Erzroom Sept. 23. 98.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton

Your letter ("personal") was received. It greatly relieved my feeling of responsibility and anxiety. Your note to Mr. S. evidently greatly relieved his feelings for he seemed at once very much more light hearted. I have now doubt he has suffered as much as I have, but I think from a different point of view. I said nothing to him about the contents of the letter, nor did he to me. He was in the midst of preparations to go to meet his wife. He left last Monday. I trust he will be able to conduct himself so to force respect in spite of this. However when the report is made that he is "in love" with a certain other person there is good ground for the report I feel not only sick at heart, but also that he will need a large supply of wisdom & a double portion of the Spirit to be able to "live down" the evil that has come to his reputation. I have no doubt he will do his best. It is hard to live down slander, but it is harder to live down such a fact. May grace be given him. I would suggest to you to keep your mind familiar with the

the possible advisibility of a quick transfer for him to some other station at a suitable time. He will be necessarily handicapped here for a goodwhile to come at the very best. He does not seem to be getting a rapid knowledge of the language. That also is likely to hamper him. I simply make this observation to make you familiar with a thought that presses on my mind somewhat. Transfer may be most difficult, as mine has proved to be. I feel very keen disappointment not to be able to accept the C.I.M. invitation. Sometimes a feeling - a sort of a desperate feeling - comes over me that I should have accepted of it. But my better judgment seems to tell me I did right. By the way you do not express your opinion on my decision to remain. I most earnestly hope it may only be till Spring.

Baby is much better - eyes almost well of ophthalmia. Talcott has been down with quite a severe attack of Malaria. He is very much better today & is able to move about.

I intended to start out on a tour of our outstations this week, but on account of Talcott's sickness postponed the start till next week. I hope to be home again by the time

the party from America arrives. My absence will leave Mrs. Chambers alone in the city for a while, but the tours must be made.

With cordial regards to Mrs. Barton & yourself.

Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

Oregon, Oct. 23, '98

Rec'd 11-28-98 280
Ans'd 12-1

Erzroom Nov. 5. 1898.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have nothing from you for a long time. Certainly I know you have been exceedingly busy in preparation for the Board meeting. I trust you had a fine meeting. So far reports of it have been very meagre. I suggested in two previous letters the names of Mr Allen & Mr Crawford for this place with the thought that if one of them could come this fall we would get away. I could not get away from a weak hope that one of them might possibly come, though my judgment told me that it was rather a vain hope. I would have been glad of your judgment as to my remaining under the circumstances - as to whether you approved of my decision or not. When I am feeling well I have no doubt, but when I get a bit malarial, more particularly if Mrs. Chambers nervous symptoms are more apparent than usual, I become very worried. Opinion is divided as to the wisdom of not accepting at once the Adana invitation.

The new comers hope to reach here by Wednesday of next week - the 19th anniversary of my arrival in the station. We have good reports of them & trust a great impetus will be given to the work. The new preacher, Bad. Kockore Dombalian, has begun work well & I trust that good success will attend his efforts. It is a very great relief to me to be able to throw off all feeling of anxiety for the welfare of this church. We hope but a man for Erzingan in which case the field will be fairly well supplied. Not as it ought to be, but a vast improvement.

I have just completed tours in the Passen & Khanoos district. The material civil & spiritual conditions are most depressing - poverty, oppression & hopelessness one might almost say "run riot". A steady increase in the wretchedness of the conditions is plainly apparent.

Mr. Graves leaves tomorrow. I feel as if I was losing a tried friend. a splendid fellow - always thoughtful & sympathetic. Mr. Massey formerly of Adana arrived day before yesterday

to relieve Mr Graves. He is highly spoken of, & appears to be all that is said of him. We wait with no little curiosity to see if Mr. Strauss will be able to secure the U.S. Consul's exequatur.

With cordial salutations

Yours truly,

W. V. Chambers.

281
J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-22-98
Ans'd. 23

Erzroom Dec 3. 1898

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Your favor of Oct. 30th came to hand some time ago.

Our travelers arrived in good weather & form on Nov. 8th. It was a red-letter day on the calendar & we had been wondering why. The coming of our reinforcements explained it to us. It was as important a red letter day to us as a station as the elections in America. I have delayed writing. I presume Mr Stapleton has reported his arrival. After this time has passed I can more heartily say that Erzroom is now to be congratulated on the reinforcement for the station. We have enjoyed greatly the newcomers & look with confident hope to the future. A second missionary family is a great desideratum in view of our withdrawal in the spring. Mrs. Stapleton I think has taken a wise stand & proposes to do medical work only in the circle & school & devote her time to the language. We have been greatly pleased with her attitude.

Miss Lord has taken charge of the girl's school or rather is gathering up the lines. Miss Bushnell is hard at the language.

The new pastor is doing good work in the congregation & gives good promise of useful work. In view of these things I feel that I can leave the place with a very much more contented heart than I would have had had we withdrawn this fall. I hope the way will be clearly open in April for us to go.

The weather is quite serene just now - this morning the registration was 6° below zero Fhr. The material condition of the country is as bad as ever & getting worse if worse is possible. Cuba was worse where people died. The marvel is that these people don't.

With very cordial regards.

W. W. Chambers

P.S. Will you please report directly the appro. ?

Bloomington, Dec. 3. 98.

J. L. B. 282
Rec'd 1-4-99
Ans'd 9

Erzroom Dec. 13. 98.

Rev. J. L. Barton,

Your favor reporting the appropriations for Erzroom made us all glad. We heartily congratulate you that you are privileged to report appros. as conforming to estimates. This must be a very satisfactory pleasure to you. We take it it is a sign of a hopeful outlook. It is the hoped that the tide has turned both at home & in the foreign field. We are pressed for lack of workers. We are now feeling the result of not being able to keep boys in our boarding dept. Winter teachers are lacking.

I think I wrote you of the arrival of our new associates. Miss Lord is very busy in school. She will be prevented somewhat from the study of the language. But the school work is most important. She has already set her heart on the destruction of the old building in which the school is. She is now occupying rooms in it. It is a scheme that dearly hope may prosper. I estimated 800 or 1000 L.T. as sum necessary for rebuilding.

I note your announcement that the P.C. indorsed our acceptance of the

invitation to Adana. I have written asking if the invitation is still open to consideration, or if I had best let it lapse remaining here for the winter. I would like to ask in connection with this a question about the expense of transfer. The freights ex. from here would be high. It occurs to me that it would be cheaper to sell some of our bulky furniture here. This would be at a sacrifice. But if we could be allowed at least part of what the freights would be from here it might be a saving. Could we count on that? Or what is the rule in reference to transfer expense?

Dec. 13, 98

I have just closed Dec. a/c's. I place the treasury over to Mr Stapleton. His a/c. is somewhat involved. This was inevitable as he had to put in winter supplies for the family & begin house keeping arrangements on a single salary. It is a pity to get involved in the beginning, but it is unavoidable. We had to pay out in a lump $100+ for fuel.

I hope you may be able to see Mr Burpholz. He plans to start back here about the middle of Jan. His residence is New Rochelle N. York.

Cordial regards

W. H. Chambers.

J. L. B. 283
Rec'd 2-7-99
Ans'd 7

Erzroom, Jan. 12. 1899.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have just received from Mr. Martin & Hadjin Miss Webb & Adana & also from the pastor & the same place letters urging our coming to Adana. I had judged that the brethren would at once proceed, on my non acceptance of the invitation last autumn, to find another missionary. I therefore wrote to Mr. Macallum asking him if the Adana invitation was still open for consideration. These letters show that the invitation is, not only open, but pressing. I am now writing Mr. Martin to the effect that I am quite ready to accept the Adana invitation provided your friends at Boston adhere to your indorsement of it given last fall. So far Providence seems to lead toward Adana.

At the same time there are one or two things I would like frankly to say to you. This change is being mainly made on Mrs Chambers health account. Our hope

were raised, at the time of the question of our being invited to the Cple. station, that as that climate was a most favourable climate for her, she might have the advantage of it again. Quite possibly such a thing is out of the question. But I have not heard from them for a long time. Mr. Pelt is at home Mr. Dwight is going home. The thought occurs to me that it might be a possible thing yet. I am the more led to this remark as I have heard that the Adana climate is severe & somewhat malarial. As the change is for health naturally our desire is to make it as favourable as possible. Considering the above vague possibility I hesitate to make a definite decision in favor of Adana without saying this to you. At the same time we make no objection to going to Adana if the other does not open up. Possibly the Adana work will be quite as interesting & absorbing.

If Adana is finally decided might I ask you to telegraph me the word "Adana" which I would understand. As that is definitely open before us, if the other may not be, we propose to try right away from here as soon after the roads open as possible

in late May or early June. We will need to spend a time in Cple. particularly for dentistry. Besides we would like to visit my brother in Bardezag before going on.

Miss Lord is almost quite recovered. The schools closed yesterday. I am glad to say that the prospect for good work being done is very bright.

Tomorrow is the O.S. New Years & as I will have forty or fifty calls to make I must to bed betimes ready for that work.

The week of prayer has gone along very encouragingly up till today - prayer meeting to-morrow morning - New Years Day O.S. will end the series of meetings. Ten new members are to be received to the church next Sabbath.

Yours very sincerely
W. N. Chambers.

Jan. 14.

P.S. I am not sure that I have acknowledged yours of Dec 1st. Yesterday came yours of Dec. 24. We hope the W.B.M.D. will not delay much longer in making appropriations. As all other estimates for the mission have been granted we take for granted that the W.B.M.D. will grant the estimates for Erzroom.

but it is pleasuring to know it.

We are glad to know that Mr. Bierstadt is recognized & he will be here in April. Do see him if at all possible. The simply getting slightly acquainted with him would be good - better get him to visit you at your office in Boston. His leave of absence is extended to ~~July~~ March 4th. His home address is New Rochelle N.Y. Col. Macrey - the Eng. Consul - who was at Adana is here - a fine fellow.

Yours

W.H.C.

Boston, Jan. 12, 69

I. L. B.
Rec'd 2-7-99 284
Ans'd 7

R.S.

Erzroom. Jan. 12. 99.

Dear Dr Barton,

I think it is best right to refer to the matter that gave us such pain last summer & autumn. I am exceedingly glad to be able to write quite hopefully of the future. Mrs. Shapleton is indeed a fine woman of serious thought. Mr. S. has good qualities & is a man of growth. He lacks, at present, that dignity of bearing that is so essential in the commanding of respect due to the position he occupies. However the influence of his wife on him is excellent & as I say, he is a man that will grow. When a man has that characteristic, many a weakness may be, for the time being, overlooked. The people who have knowledge of the question of last summer I think have acted loyal to their words. I think the question is relegated quite to the rear, it will now depend quite on Mr. S. whether it is ever called up again or not. God grant it may not be.

I am gradually getting the work off my shoulders, shifting the responsibility, as we may not be here more than three months more.

W. H. Chambers.

Orgoon, Jan, 12, 69

285
J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-27-99
Ans'd 4-11

Erzroom. March 1. 1899.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

On my return on Saturday from a month's tour to Erzingan & Kemakh, I found your favor of Jan. 10th & 18th & yesterday came yours of Feb. 7th: At present I simply wish to acknowledge these letters. At the same time I wish to thank you for your good words of encouragement & good will.

As you remark, "Providence seems to be leading you to Adana". I have written Miss Webb informing her that we propose to leave here for Adana just as soon as the roads open in the spring, & ask her to consult if possible secure us a home there. I presume the roads will not be open before May. I note what you say about the expense of transfer. We are carefully considering the modes of transport & are trying to find out the most favourable way. We will try to make the transfer as economically as possible.

Mrs. Chambers & Kate are only fairly well, while they have gained nothing in the way of health by continued residence, I trust they have sustained no permanent injury. However we will need

to take every care in our movements. I earnestly hope the Adana climate may be quite favourable.

I cordially thank you for your words of good will & expression of regret at our leaving the A.B.C.F.M. & dropping out of official correspondence with you. I assure you it is no light matter to break connection with the mission work in which we have found ourselves for the past score of years & to which we have given the most vigorous years of our lives. This work with all its difficulties has its peculiar attractions. This place is of peculiar strategic position. It is a border position, the center of a work that reaches over into Russia. I have often wondered how it was that I have been here so long as compared with other missionaries, & so much of the time alone. I can only say that in the presence of many failures & the lack of hoped for success I have only tried to do my duty; there is room for great improvement, but I trust our labors have not been in vain in the Lord. I would urge again, led to it by experience, although I am sure you are by no means unmindful of the question, do not leave the place long without another missionary. The work is too much for one man, especially a young man. Look well to the man who is sent.

I cordially reciprocate your words of good will. I have enjoyed indeed the correspondence with you & while official correspondence may end, "cordial relations" need not & trust unofficial & friendly correspondence may continue for a long time to come.

I contemplate a short report on my 20 years in Erzroom, but these last days will be very full & I am not one.

With cordial regards

Yours truly,
W. N. Chambers

Bigham's Mary.
Jun. 1, 79

4-3-99 286
4

Erzroom. March 11. '99.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

You ask me to express myself about the question of the girls school building which Miss Lord brings forward. Evidently a slightly wrong impression was made, & the ladies in Chicago had not retained in mind the report on the late additions made to the girls school building. Some £400 were appropriated for putting the girls school building in good order. In the building there was but one small room that could be used for a school room, & a couple of uncomfortable rooms that were used to accommodate the few boarding girls that attended. The proposition, when the appropriation was asked, was to remove the old building & rebuild. However when the work was undertaken it was found impossible to get the "permit" from the govt. However the officials said that "repairs" could be ~~done~~ made. These "repairs" were used cover an extensive plan of which the official mind had no official information. In this way part of the old building was removed - leaving the old school room. Foundations were cast so as to erect a building of

two stories, having three good sized school rooms below (on the first storey) & four (I think was the thought) on the second floor the used for whatever purpose they might be available. The work that was done was expensive because of the extensive plan. The lower storey & two thirds of the building had been completed & the second storey well begun, when a cantankerous neighbor made complaint to the municipality that we were exceeding our permit. This was indeed a fact but it was well understood by all concerned. But when ~~officially~~ the official attention had been called to the fact in an official way the officials were bound to act, & naturally forbade the second storey & the work had to be rounded off with the first storey. Had our neighbor kept quiet the officials would have said nothing, & a very good building would have been erected. There are still in hand of that building fund £119. The initial expenditures were large because the plan was large. & apparently larger that the results warranted. I think Mr. Macallum & Miss Chambers reported this at the time.

So much in reference to the school building proper. The schools have grown as to overflow. The school building does not afford sufficient space for the needs of the school. It was for this reason that

application was made at last an. meeting to assign the adjoining missionary residence to school purposes. This old house is a wretched affair. Missionaries have resided in it & done good work. But that was not because the house was "fit", besides it increases in age & decrepitude unfitness year by year & ought to be quietly removed out of sight.

Mrs Lords proposition is to have this old missionary house removed & a new building erected in its place with special reference to the residence of the lady teachers & boarding department of the school with such class rooms as might be available. If this were done the house would serve its original purpose - missionary residence, - or rather residence for the lady missionaries, at the same time affording very necessary extra accommodation for the school.

I would note two or three points:

1. If the girls school continues its growth, or even in its present condition larger accommodations are necessary. The lack of room will greatly retard the efficiency & growth of the school.

2. Comfortable & fitting rooms are necessary for the residence of the lady missionaries. The rooms as at present are neither comfortable, or convenient

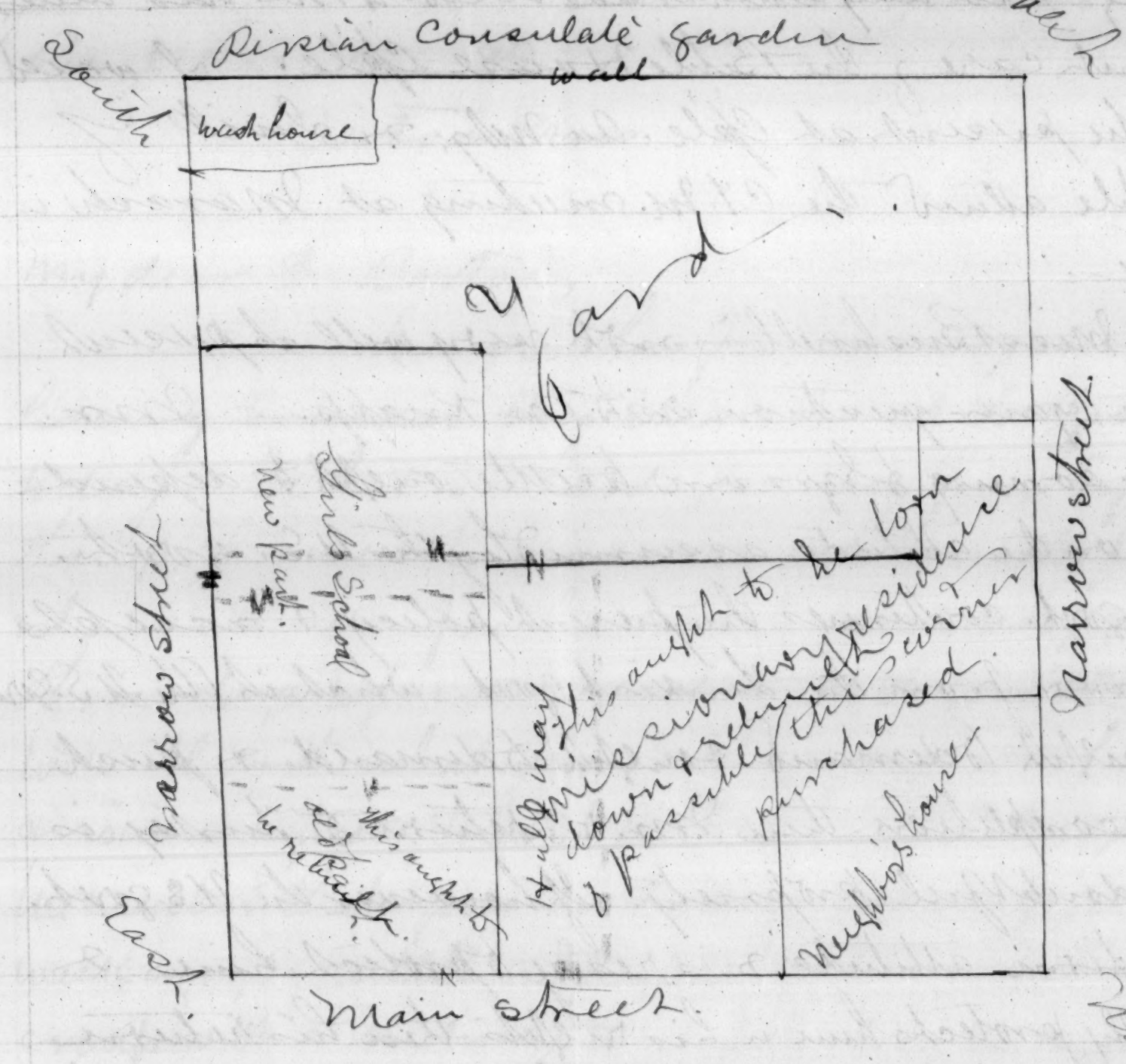
or fitting for their residence. In addition for years there has been an uneasy feeling that the building is not really safe. It is said the beams holding up the roof are partially rotten, to what extent cannot be said untill they are removed. It is very doubtful if they are now strong enough to sustain the earthen roof, more particularly if such a shock as an earthquake might give would try their strength. The building ought to be removed.

3. ~~For~~ the above reasons the building cannot be well used for the residence of a missionary family. That was possible when the school was small. But now it is impossible.

It is to be kept in mind that there are two buildings on the same lot - the girl's school building & the missionary residence. The new part of the girl's school is good & substantial. Miss Lord's remarks as I understand apply to the present state of the part known as the missy residence.

I would cordially second the thought of a new building. I would like to have seen it completed while still connected with the station. However I will be glad to hear of Mr. Logan's idea. I will draw a rough

plan of the palace.



possibly you can get an idea of the site.

The people here are going forward in the matter of the ordination of the preacher. I earnestly hope they may with the ordination become self-supporting - if not this year at least next. I hope this year will see them self supporting. I hope this may take place within three weeks in which case we will leave in about a month - reaching Cple. by the close

of April & Adana by the close of May. After receiving this any letters addressed to me had better be sent care of the Bible House Cp'le. I would like the present at Cp'le. Au. Mtg. & will if possible attend the C.T.M. meeting at Marash in June.

Miss Bushnell is not very well at present. I note your question as to Mr. Knapp. Mr. Knapp's coming to Erzroom to settle ought to depend greatly on the attitude assumed by the U.S. Govt. If the Govt. continues the present policy & accepts as a favor from the Turkish Govt. what it (the U.S. Govt.) has a right to demand & ought to demand & push along to completion then Mr. K's return to Turkey is one of doubtful propriety. If however the U.S. Govt. takes a firm attitude & is ready to protect him & actually protects him in his rights then his return & settlement in Erzroom would be quite proper. I have no doubt that Mr. K's hot young blood led him into a position that he would - at least ought to avoid again. If he has learned by experience & is cautious I would be glad to see him at Erzroom. I should say that the present Vali is suspicious of Mr. K. but he is trying to get away from him. If Mr. K. is properly backed that suspicion would develop little or no opposition.

Yours truly W. H. Chambers.

287
MAY 18 1899
MAY 18 1899

Private

S.S. Circassie
Black Sea. April 28. 1899.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton,

We are thus far on our journey having boarded this steamer at Trebizond today. We had a a hard journey from Erzroom though the weather was exceptionally fine & the roads were for the most part very good. Three days before we reached Trebizond Dorothea took ill with what proved the croup. We had an anxious time & tried to push on as fast as possible. We reached Trebizond on Friday morning, just a week ago, & called a Dr. He pronounced it croup with a tendency to diphtheria. An injection of serum was given & the child rapidly improved, though the Dr. said we ought to delay. We intended to go to morrow, but this Packet Steamer came in this morning & the weather was good & we pushed to get ready. We hastened our start also because we feared the large crowd would overtire Mrs. Barnes who is not very strong. Mr. Burchholz arrived on Tuesday

and we had a good visit with him. He takes our servants & starts for Erzroom tomorrow.

Our plan is to visit some days in Bardzag get some dentistry done in C'ple & then on to Adana by June 1st & after settling in the summer residence place - I will go to Marash to an. wtg.

It is difficult to become accustomed to the fact that we have left Erzroom behind. The last bonds seemed to be cut today as we have got bye to the friends at Trebizond.

Now that everything has passed out of my hands I feel that I ought to give you a little more information concerning Erzroom. In this I only wish to state facts & indicate what appears to me may be the outcome of those facts. I do not wish to complain for I know that every person has to work out his own salvation, or in other words use his own methods of work. This is for your private information & I trust you will destroy this letter

Both Miss Lord & Mr. Stapleton are not at all inclined to cooperate with the native brethren in carrying on the work. Ever since the massacre we carried have no cooperative alliance meeting, but I had hoped that the time was near when those meetings could be resumed. Mr. Stapleton is reactionary in that respect, & I

judge he will make no effort to revive those meetings. ~~in that respect~~.
Then in addition we had a School committee composed of three delegates from the people & the missionary voting members - both missionaries & lady missionaries. In dealing with some native brethren, great patience is necessary, as you very well know. It became evident after two or three meetings that the missionaries lacked both the patience & desire to carry on this arrangement. The constitution was made 18 years ago, when my brother & Mr Cole were still members of the station. It was crude in some of its parts, as it was a new thing at that time. It has not given me any trouble during all these years, as there has been no need to appeal to the constitution. I always tried to keep prominent the spirit of work, not the letter of the constitution, as a guide of conduct. It could have been commended without very much trouble, had a more conciliatory spirit & patience been manifested. This was lacking on the part of the missionaries, & it followed on the part of the native brethren. The Committee broke up, & the relations between the two parties are very strained & uncompromising.

Miss Lord insists that the girls school is an American school. She would be pleased to have the native brethren visit the schools, but any more than that is not desirable in her estimation. Mr. Stapleton is following in the lead of Miss Lord. The schools that the community had in hand at the time our arrangement was made were incorporated in the schools that were in the hands of the missionaries & all were put under the care of this mixed committee. There seems to me a right - if the question of rights are to be emphasized - on the part of the people. If the cooperation is to be done away with, then their schools should be restored to them. But it seems to me there are higher grounds on which to judge the question, than merely that of finance. The moral influence of it all is of utmost importance.

Now, this question has taken on another serious phase. The matter of Mr. I's affair of last year gradually became known to a considerable extent. His action ~~in~~ ~~the~~ towards the people in the school question & in general aroused their indignation & revived that

matter. He has been ~~altogether this~~ so de-
monstrative towards his wife in public
~~[illegible]~~ as to give ground for disagreeable remarks
rouse suspicion, & even threats of exposure.
He is still ~~not~~ sufficiently reserved in his treatment of females.
This led to another painful incident.
The Church decided not to invite Mr Stapleton
to take part in the ordination of the new pastor. This fact
& the reasons for it were most painful to me & took
away the joy of the occasion. Not only this, but for
me to take part & leave my associate out was, ~~&~~
~~[illegible]~~, a most undesirable thing. I talked
the matter over & I was told by a representative of the Church Com. that only for my case,
if I said that an invitation should be extended to
Mr. S., it would be done. But, at the same time,
it would be necessary for him to decline to be
present, as it was possible, his presence might occasion some remark ~~might~~
~~be made~~ & besides his presence was not wished that would make things far worse. ~~Said~~
I could not be sure of Mr. S's. attitude & so I felt I
could not say invite him. It is impossible to
argue with young men that Mr. S's. acts of last
year were not on the verge of immorality.

I begged both sides to be as patient as possible
& not force a crisis. But I have no good reason to
hope that considerable trouble may not rise
in the near future. I am sorry to say that Mr.

S. does not seem to grasp the situation, & is not at all conciliatory in his attitude. I can't conceive how he is going to carry the burden of his tarnished reputation, ~~in addition to~~ handicapped by the lack of the good will of the people, together with the difficulties of the most trying work in the easiest lines.

The question of my duty under the circumstances came up for very serious consideration. Last year I postponed my departure because of Mr. S's. acts. I felt then I was running considerable risks in connection with Mr. Alexander's health. The departure was postponed till this time. And I felt that I had touched the limits of safety in that respect. Besides this, I found that the mode of Miss Lord's thought & method of work were radically opposed to mine. Mr. Stapleton had never cordially entered into my methods, & when Miss Lord arrived he did cordially sympathize with her ideas. I felt it due to them, as they were where the work in hand, to give place to them as early as possible, as I saw that my arguments with them were of no avail. The difference was quite too radical to make my remaining for any length of time of any good purpose. On the other hand, I felt that my presence was likely to be only embarrassing.

In all this I wish you to understand clearly that I am preferring no charges, nor do I wish these representations to be made the ground of caution to the Erzroom friends. I'm simply writing this for your information, so that when the question reaches you in other ways you will have my thoughts on it. Our personal relations with the Erzroom missionary friends were of the most cordial kind. The last couple of weeks we were all together & the time in that respect was most pleasant to me. Miss Lord is most estimable in very many ways, but is seemingly ~~entirely~~ greatly lacking in that sympathetic attitude & action which are calculated to gain the good will & confidence of the people amongst whom she is working without which her work will be undoubtedly very "up hill". The appreciation of a favor done may be developed, it can never be forced. Mr. S. has also some excellent points, but I fear it will take him a very long time to appreciate the fact that the ~~Occident~~ Orient is not the Occident, that Turkey is not Iowa; that the people have prejudices peculiar to themselves that cannot safely be ignored; that some things that some Occidentals would think questionable become inexcusable in the Orient. In

addition Mr. S's. difficulty with the language has caused the general remark "Oh! he will never learn it." He has made very little progress indeed.

I will talk the question of Mr. Knapp's return over with Dr. Dwight & in Cple. & hope he may be able to return & settle at Erzroom. Just here allow me to say that the gentleman whom Mr. S. has suggested for Erzroom would seem to be very much the style of a man that Mr. S. is & would hardly improve the situation at Erzroom.

I hoped to report encouragingly on the ordination of the pastor. But what is written above will indicate to you that I had no heart to do so. As far as the church & congregation are concerned the outlook is encouraging. The present situation may result in the drawing apart of the people & missionaries rather suddly hasten independence & self-support. That I think was quite in sight & would have come pleasantly.

We hope to be in Cple. on Monday morning.

With cordial salutations

W. H. Chambers.

P.S. I have indicated to Dr. Barnum what seemed to me to be the situation at Erzroom.

P.S. Monday - arrived safely

JUN 9 1899
JUN 12 1899

Bible House, Constantinople.
May 25th 1899.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Barton.

We are preparing to board the steamer to Smyrna today. We will then await the Austrian which goes from there almost direct to Mersine. This gives us an opportunity to get better acquainted with Smyrna friends & work — a desirable thing as they are to be our neighbors. We hope to reach Mersine by Thursday of next week.

I write you at this time to raise the question of my salary. I presumed the sal. appropriated to me at Erzroom would be credited to me at Adana. However Mr. Winger thinks it would be reported as "unused appropriation" & would charge sal. for Adana as "not under appropriations." I remember that there was correspondence about Mr MacAllen's sal. when he went to Marash & I think his Erzroom sal. wa-

credited Trim at Marash. Will you consider the matter & give Mr. Weizer the necessary instruction?

I wish to raise another point. According to rule I presume our sal. would cease when we left Erzroom & begin when we reach Adana, though for transfer from one station to another I am not sure about that. I do know however there are many expenses incurred such as dentistry medical attendance, necessary shopping here in C'ple &c &c. which apparently would not properly come under trav. ex. & yet they are expenses necessarily incurred at this particular time, & the majority are not such as would properly belong to previous or later sal. ch. The question in my mind is where will I put the charges, if my sal. does not continue. This thought comes to my mind: Why might not the sal. continue through the period of the journey, crediting ~~the~~ trav. ex. ch. a proper proportion for living. For instance we pay in Erzroom for board 9 pias. a day for each

person. Deducting this much from the cal. we would have a margin with which to meet other expenses in part that may not properly come under trav. ex. a/c. I would not raise this question, only I find that, with the greatest care money will slip through ones hands, & with the changing of home, & the pressing question of education of our children I do not want if possible to fall into arrears & possibly have to ask for help later. As an example of very legitimate expense; I attended the ordination at Adabazar. I have no sort of doubt it was the proper thing to do, but where will I put the expense? There are many such expenses.

I was present at some of the sessions of the meeting here & enjoyed them much.

Your answer may be sent to me at Adana. I write you as the app. belongs to the E.Y.M.

Very cordial regards

Yours truly

W. N. Chambers.

Constantinople May 25th 19

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers

289 — 302

Constantinople, May 25, 99

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers

289 — 302

Whereas Dr. Silvier Mitchel of Philadelphia states his opinion concerning the condition of my wife's health & her prospects of recovery as follows:-

"I think Erzroom and a high level both seriously against the chances of complete return to health in any case like that of your wife.

Either you should be on a lower level, or she contented to dwell apart from you & your work for a time as to the needed length of which no man can be sure. She will always be more or less nervous. She will have her best chances on some elevation lower than Erzroom

Nor can I omit to state that after a woman has been on the verge of Remlouse hysteria, the place of her trial is no place for her. It has seemed to me a duty to state to you my opinion."

I, therefore, beg the mission to endorse my request for permission to visit America at the earliest possible moment, & at the same time urge on the Prud. Com. the imperative need of the immediate supply of Erzroom Station. Fraternally- W. H. Chambers.

Yea

Nay

Erzroom
July 21. 1897.

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Yea

Nay

Erzroom
July 21. 1897.

Yea.

H. W. Allen.

E. C. Raymilde.

R. M. Cole ⊗

n H Arpoch.

Carried unanimously.

Circular Vote - Eastern Survey

Sec. Mrs. M. V. Chandler

⊗ Why can't the Cranfords and Chambers swap places?

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers, 290
J. L. B. New York, Oct. 21, 96 St
Rec'd 10-23-96.
Ans'd 24

331 So. 16th Street
Oct. 21st

Dear Dr. Barton -

The sudden change in my plans, which made it necessary for me to come to the United States has been a sore trial to me. My heart is in Erzroom, my thoughts are ever traveling there, & I feel keenly the extra strain it will be on my husband not to have the relaxation that the family life gives.

I have wondered whether it might not have delayed coming a year or two but the doctor assures me that a delay

in treatment would have
been very detrimental to
my health, whereas now
I may be sure of restored
health very soon.

I fear that the expenses
of my journey may have
been more than ordinary
& I have felt distressed to
be the cause of extra expense
to the Board at a time when
it is so crippled for funds,
but the haste with which
I had to leave, because of
the critical state affairs
were in at Cple. my own
nervous condition, & the neces-
sity of bringing a nurse for
my four months old baby
all tended to this. Mr. Knapp

sent to her. Yet, the account of expenses up to Bremen including the tickets for the passage - There are a few items since then, The two trunks that I felt obliged to bring with me, fell behind at Bucharest, because Mr. Knapp failed to reregister them at that point. They have been telegraphed & written for & I hope to see them some day, of course I have been greatly inconvenienced, especially the having to cross the ocean without my steamer trunk, the fact too of their not being with us has entailed extra expense, what it will be I cannot tell, when the trunk

sent to Mr. Peet, the account of expenses up to Bremen including the tickets for the passage. There are a few items since then, the two trunks that I felt obliged to bring with me, fell behind at Bucharest, because Mr. Knapp failed to reregister there at that point. They have been telegraphed & written for & I hope to see them some day, of course I have been greatly inconvenienced, especially the having to cross the ocean without any steam or trunk, the fact too of their not being with us has entailed extra expense, what this will be I cannot tell, when the trunk

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but the harbe with which
I had to have, because of
the critical state of affairs
here in at Cple. my own
nervous condition, & the neces
sity of bringing a nurse for
my four months old baby
I tended to this. Mr. Knapp

arrive I shall know, may I then delay sending in the account until I know what the expense on the trunks will be?

In about two weeks I shall enter the Presbyterian hospital here in Phil. for the necessary treatment. A friend has secured me a room & nurse free of any charge, & the doctor has generously offered to perform the operation also free of charge. This of course I could not have secured on the other side of the ocean. My journey was a comfortable one, except for the intense heat

I knew it was largely physical, but it wore on me greatly - The children kept well, & baby really throve on the frequent change of milk.

Could you kindly send me Mrs. Coles address Mrs. Cole of Bethis -

May I also trouble you to send me $25.00 to be charged to my husband's account,

Yours I. J. F. B.

How is Mrs. Barton, I think you spoke of her as being ill in one of your letters -

Is the report of the Tam massacre true, the long delay in its being reported makes me hope it may be a false report - There has

Mr. Herbert Allen decid
to spend the winter?

I thought my broth
reported my arrival t
you or I should have d
so sooner, but he says h
did not. He reached
Oct. 12th three weeks & a
day from Lyle.

With kind regard
Mrs. Barton I

I am very sincerely
Lanetta P. H. Chann

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-14-96
Ans'd 16

Philadelphia
Dec 11th 1896

Dear Dr Barton

Soon after arriving in this country I received a letter from you suggesting that my my husband's salary should be put on the basis of a single man and asking, what amount, I should need to meet my expenses.

About the same time I received a letter from my husband suggesting a different plan.

I have therefore waited to hear from him again before answering your letter.

This morning comes your letter of Dec 8th and

inasmuch after know
of Mr Chambers sugge
as he wrote to you also, y
consider the receiving
my support directly fr
the treasury at Boston
wisest plan. I am ver
ready to accept and d
not Mr Chambers w
feel the same.

My children are t
(10) and seven and a
(7½) years and seve
months old. I as you
know, brought with me
Armenian nurse, as m
strength was not and
not sufficient to care f
the babe myself.

When in this com

before, the allowance for my husband, two children 5 and two years old, and myself was $100 a month, and we found it sufficient for our necessities. I would prefer to leave to your judgment as to what allowance I receive.

I suppose the new arrangement will take effect January 1st. Could a small allowance say $430 a month be made for the two and a half months since landing in this country till Jan 1st.

It is now three weeks since I underwent the operation which necessitated my coming to this country.

The doctor pronounced it a thoroughly successful

operation, though as ye
I do as yet feel the belief
to accrue from it time m
bring that.

I return to my brot
next week. I hope to spend
January with friends i
New Berne N. C. The two ol
children will remain a
my brothers and attend
school in Phila.

My trunks arrived
weeks after our landin
and I enclose the balan
of the account of my trav
expenses.

Mr Chambers wro
me to include the expense
Everyone to Constantinopl
the greater part of which
we had hoped to meet o
selves had my return
Constantinople been pos

Did Mr Knapp remain in Berlin or return to Constantinople?

I am very sorry to hear that Mrs Barton has gained so slowly. Is she at home or is obliged to be in a hospital?

Will you excuse me if I bring to your mind a fact that might not occur to you in allowing the salary for a single missionary that the single ladies have a larger salary than the other single ladies of the mission because of the greater expense for fuel.

Yours very sincerely

Cornelia P. H. Chambers

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers,

Philadelphia, Dec. 11, 96

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd

12-29-96 Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers.
30

331 So. 16th Street
Phil. Dec. 26th

Dear Dr. Barton

Yours of Dec. 16th has come to hand, you do not refer in it, to the account I enclosed in my last to you of the balance of my traveling expenses. It was on a separate sheet, could it have been over-looked?

There is one point in your letter in which I do not feel quite clear.

Does my husband's salary on the basis of a single man begin Jan. 1st or Dec. 1st?

If it is to begin Dec. 1st, I suppose I am to understand

that the Prudential Com.
have not felt that they co
allow us the $30. extra abo
the salary for the one & a ha
months from Oct. 12. (time
landing) and Dec 1st. If h
ever the change in Mr. Ba
ber's salary is not to begi
till Jan 1st, then I can
see that the beginning o
my allowance Dec. 1st.
amounts to the same th
as having it begin Jan
& allowing a grant of $7
($30 a month) for the two
a half months, in as mu
as it ~~amounts to~~ is about
same as a month's allowa

I am sorry to trouble y
again, but I wish to und
stand the matter right

Perhaps I should have an-
swered at once, but I have
not yet regained my full
strength, & money matters
worry me so easily I have
tried to give them as lit-
tle thought as possible du-
ring these days of weak-
ness when it is so hard
not to worry. I miss Mr.
Chambers sadly, my cour-
age fails me so often, this
living 8000 miles apart is
a severe strain. I really
think, this winter is a
harder one to bear than last
years was. My depression
& spirits is doubtless due
to physical conditions, but
they are very hard to bear
when upon me. I have writ-

ter you freely & trust you
will consider it only for
yourself -

I meant to ask above if
you will kindly tell me the
Mr. Chamber's salary was
'96. & what it will be for
I should know the former
but do not recall what the
new arrangement makes
it. Could you please send
me the balance of this month
~~salary~~ allowance, & $50 on the account
my husband's salary, prev
to the new arrangement -

I suppose I write to the
direct for each month's allow
ance -

Yours sincerely -
Cornelia P. W. Cham

J. L. B.
d.S. - 15 - 97
d - 16

Mrs. W. W. Chambers,

293

8 Perry Street
Morristown N. J.
March. 12. 97

Dear Dr. Barton.

I have had many things to be thankful for during this year of heavy and peculiar trials, and among them I must add the fortunate circumstances that your Sunday in Philadelphia, fell on the one week that I spent there on my return north.

I was so longing for a
good talk with you, an
it has done me lots o
good to have had it.
I also keenly enjoyed l
listening to the conversa
tion between you & my
brother. I am on the
out for the appointme
with even more eger
Mr. Chambers last l
was from Eryingan, I c
see he was dreading a
the return to his empt
home - How slowly th
certain affair moves
Mrs. Burgholy the h

the Am. Consul in Canton
unched here with me yes-
erday. It seems that con-
ulate is in the civil ser-
ice list, so the new ad-
ministration will not af-
ect it.

I expect in sending
on my account of expen-
itures I should have
stated that the amount
ad been advanced from
ersonal funds. When
parted from Mr. Knapp
t Brennin he could not
pare me any money so
hat the fees on the steam
r, fair to Phil. and ex-

penses of the last trip
I had to meet my self
This amounted to

Expense of Baggage $12 9.
Bal of Ex. fr. Brenin
to Philadelphia 21.00
$50 70

The expense from
Eryrom to Cple. which
bill had also not been
presented was $80.30
amounting in all to
$131 Mr. Higgin has the
account of. Had I return
to Eryr. we had hoped to
a large part of the expe
of the trip to Cple.
With the pleasantest of me
ories of our good visit toge
very sincerely, G. T. W. Cham
("Mrs. W. N.")

Mrs. C. D. M. Chambers 295

294

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-20-97
Ans'd 22

8 Perry Street.
Morristown N. Jersey
April 17th 1897

Dear Dr. Barton.

Loi told me at Phil. that I could write you pri-vate letters, wh. need not be looked upon as official; it is such that I wish to send you to-day.

I have just received two letters from my husband. He came third in two weeks four days! He had just received the copy of Dr. Mitchell's letter which according to his request I enclosed to you. You have

doubtless heard from h
on the same subject. A
what I said to you in
I did not think it nec
sary to forward Dr. Smit
to you till I should hea
from Mr. Chambers - h
feeling sure what cour
he would take.

A medical man gives
opinion professionally
he is found to do, but o
who know the needs su
perhaps a little differe

Feeling a justly prido
the influence & stand
that Mr. Chambers ha
gained & I may add, fo
you among all classes
Everyone I naturally h

shrunk from being the
cause of his leaving just at
this time. And I wrote
him that I was willing
to waive Dr. Mitchell's opin-
ion & return if possible,
that is if the Board would
send us (this fall) hoping
that perhaps latter & before
I gained any serious harm
he might be sent ~~the~~ where
the climate would be his
were & the altitude one on
the sea level. Mr. Chambers
now feels very differently
speaks decidedly that I
should not return to Erzroom. So we another year
in America seperated from
my husband, with the en-

tire responsibility of the chil-
dren looks to I have so hea-
a burden & strain that
seems to me I should go
what I have gotten (or at
lose only a little) more ea-
in the quiet routine of fa-
ily life, that this living
without a home it is ver
depressing, especially wh
so small a baby.

If Cryroom can be supp
abroad I shall be very gl
to avoid another fall-do
that a return to Cryroom
may entail, but by not
shall want to return, w
too great a strain on her
chambers to pull thro
another year alone. I h

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers 295

No. 1524 Walnut Street,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RM
Feb

Dear

Mr Chambers —

would only to say
that Mrs C — is
much better;
think Everyoung
a high level
with seriously
against the
chances of com
plete return of
health in any
case like that

orders nervou
She will have
her best chance
at some elevat
lower than Sa
Zerouun - Nor
can I omit to
state that aft
a woman has
been on the ver
of perilous hys
teria - the peac
of her trial is
no peace fo
her -

of your wife —
either upon
honored be on
a lower level
or she be con
tented to dwell
apart from you
your world
or a time as to
the length of
which no man
can be sure —
she will al
ways be more

It has seemed
to me a duty
to share to
you my opin
ion —

Yours truly

Weir Mitchell

ruel that he should not
have his children while
they are young, they will
have to leave us far too
soon. a boy needs his Father's
influence during these for-
mative years.
The McNaughtons wanted
come last year & couldn't
I suppose they are plan-
ning to come this, & surely
Mrs. McNaughton need the
rest. The Barnums & Craw-
fords are coming so are
they not? I am sorry Mr.
Cole cannot get away.
Mr. Chambers says that
we shall anxiously await
your reply, he thinks I
have communicated with

you. I hope some decisi
on the question can be
to pretty soon, but I kn
such matters take tim

The baby keeps well & gr
in sweet ways every da

My love to Mrs. Barto
I hope the months bring
her the strength she ne

Have you made any dec
sions with regard to the
turn of any missionaries
this country. My broth
sailed Sat. for Sawyers & e
aged me by saying be
the prospects fair for o
return to Turkey.

Yours sincerely
Cornelia T. H. Chan

Can you please return
me Dr. Mitchell's letter
unless it is necessary
to keep it.

he ocean, if it is to be

Mrs. C. P. St. Chambers,

J. L. B.
17-8-97
11

296 S

8 Perry Street.
Morristown N. Jersey
June 5th 1897

ar Dr. Barton.

You are such a busy
an that it seems horribly
ight to send you any but
ecessary letters, & yet I do
elieve I will avail my self
your expressed willingness
hear from me whenever
elt like writing, & to do so in
unofficial way, if it were
sible, & it certainly is.

Of course I know that you
ll inform me at once
en the question as to the time
Mrs. Chambers' leaving Eng.

is in great need of a den
& I think too may be perma
by injuring his eyes for ev
of glasses. I really should
be very anxious for him
he must pull thro another
ten months, without hav
those wants attended to. Th
strain of course is much be
in because he has not the
laxation of home life.
Next week I take my fa
ily to Sherburn Hud So
to remain a season in t
family of my brother in
who summers there. Mr
James Chambers of N.
There to await developm
I am such a poor sailor
that I am anxious to en

the ocean, if it is to be
rossed in Aug. or early
pt. If only our place of
stination were settled &
e time of my Husband's
aving Bryson be set for
is Fall. I might in my
other in law's family
Bordeyag wait for him
If however worst comes
worst & we must stay
nother year in America
must before long begin
look about for some place
which to settle down.
not wander around as
have done this year.
I shall leave here June
th after that my address
ll be care Rev. James Chambers

Sherburne - New York -

I heard that Mrs. Borve
of Cple. had come to the
is it so? Does Mrs. Brow
plan to join her husban
this year? & Mrs. Cole?
Does the Eastern questio
look any more hopeful to
Are Mr. & Mrs. McNaught
coming home for their a
ed vacation?

Very sincerely yours
Cornelia P. H. Cham

[illegible] I am anxious to [illegible]

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers. 297

J. L. B.
8-31-97
9-2

Sherburne Chenango Co.
New York Aug. 20th

ear Dr. Barbour.

If the distance was
t so great I should be
ery tempted to come &
ave a talk with you
tters are so unsatisfac-
y. You have doubtless
eived as I have a copy
the "vote" & accompany-
g letter which Mr. Cham
s has started around
mission; and natu-
lly I am anxious to know

how it will be received
at Boston - I saw the
ter that you recently
to Mr. James Chamb
and keenly realize the
straighten condition of
the mission for men
well as for funds -

While I feel that Dr
Mitchel may be, & doub
less is right in his opi
ion that the altitude
Cery room is not the pl
for me to live in, yet
eidering the urgency
the case, the difficulty
finding some one to

ly the place at once. I
ave earnestly desired
return there this Fall
remain till some
e could be found, &
e released to go else-
here. This I have urg-
d upon my husband,
t he has not been will-
g to consent. He did
y however, that could
be appointed to another
ace, at a certain defin-
e time, so that my re-
rn would be limited
I should not have to

stay in Erzroom but
short time he would
willing that we shou
join him this Fall,
he was not willing t
the other question of a
positive release from
Erzroom should be s
tled. I have been gai
steadily, & feel that I
almost where I was wh
we returned to Erzroom
92. I do not of course wa
to lose this by a protra
ted stay in Erzroom,
I do feel very strongly

hat a year's stay there
ight not seriously affect
my health. I feel more
hurt than I can tell
you, being the cause of
my husband's withdraw-
l from the work at such
time of great need. I long
go to him, to give him
a home life that will en-
le him better the burden
the heavy
rain upon him. I long
to be there & help in
he little that I can, when
here is so much to be
one. I feel that it is very

important for me an
the children. that we
should get into a setti
home bye, this wandeu
about is bad for us. b
you I know understa
& realize this, & I fee
sure are most anxi
that we may become
reunited family at
earliest possible tim
In one letter you sa
that you had hopes
by this Fall ~~th~~ we m
join Mr. Chamberl
It is hard to consul

drive at a distance of
so miles, the time his
sing, a family like
ine cannot cross those
ountains later than
vember & so I write to
k what hopes you can
w give. My desire to
turn has been strength-
ed by the report of the
m. Adeinturum, that they
r the state of the country
s now such that ladies
ght return. I have so
hed & hoped for such
solution of our question

as would lead to our r
turn this Fall. I drea
the prospect of anoth
year in America.

Please accept this le
ter in confidence. I am
writing because I want
light, help & advise, an
you have offered to gi
all you could.

We have had a delight
Summer on my broth
in law's farm, where
come from N.Y. for the
cation. The children a
all well. Very sincerely
Cornelia P. H. Chain

P.S. I wrote this letter
ome days ago but hesi-
tated to mail it. I feel
owever that I must. &
would like to add, that
hen I asked you to
onsider the letter con-
idential, I do not mean
course the fact, for
he more official the as-
urance we are seeking
he more it will influ-
ence my husband to
llow of our return, that

it assurance that
should be transferre
within a definite tim
In case such assura
can be sent me, wou
you think it best to
Mr. Chambers askin
his consent for my
turn for a year, fro
which I think he wo
understand, that y
would intend to se
the supply for Eryt
by that time.

Does Mrs. Browne

ropoot intend to join
r husband this Fall?
course I know that
are running a risk in
turning in the face
what Dr. Mitchel has
id, but in a time
e this when all in
s work are taking
ks, some of one kind
some of another. I fell
ab I am cheerfully
eady to do this, if I
ri have my husband
nsent in the matter

I am sorry to send
you so lengthy an
epistle.

Hoping to hear f
you at an early d
as precious time
passing.

I am very sincere
Cornelia P. H. Chan

Aug. 28th

Mrs. C. P. St. Chambers

9-10-97

298

23 Sherburn Chenango Co.
New York Sept 9th '97

ear Dr. Barton.

Your letter has been re-
ived. I can see very well how
u cannot give quite the as-
urance that I asked for, but
m very glad to know of the
forts that are being made to
pply Erzroom. My earnest
ire to return to my husband
s fall was what made me write
I did, hoping by being able
assure my husband that
stay in Erzroom would
for a short time, he would
that he could consent to
return.

The assurance that you give
t every effort will be made

to supply his place as soon
possible? will I feel make h
be willing to consent to any
turn, if the doctor approve.
I sent your letter to my bro
he writes that Dr. Mitchel is i
Europe, not to return for six we
(alas for poor me) but he says
has written him fully & asked
him to cable.
My brother favors my return
if it can be done without too
much risk, but feels strong
that this is a time when o
must take risks, as we al
have to sometimes for the s
of the work.
Yours sincerely.
Cornelia P. H. Chandler

Mrs. C. P. St. Chambers
9-22-97
-23
299

Sherburne Chenango Co.
New York Sept. 20th

ear Dr. Barton -

I think I wrote you
at my brother had wit-
n to Dr. Weir Mitchel
o is now in Europe
th regard to my return
Cerfroom this Fall,
be with my husband
til the supply you
e looking for should
found - Just what

my brother wrote I do
not know - I hope he
himself written you
But I think it was
state the case, & ask
a limited stay in E
room would seriously
feet my health - -
So night I have this
egram from my broth
"Stir Mitchell cables b
for her to go with her h
band" to I suppose w
intended -
You already know w
earnest desire to joi

my husband, & make for
him the home that he
needs, especially as he is
so alone in the station.
He says in one of his late
letters that in consultation
with you & others I should
settle the question. So I
do not think we need ca-
ll him his desire in the
matter. The late action
of our state & this station
have heard of through
Albert. The question now
can you & the Prudential
Committee endorse my return

Of course I know tha
there may be reasons
you cannot. It is a gr
comfort to feel that th
Lord after all, plans o
lives, & he will bring
pass what is for our b
good. May I just make th
that in regard to exp
the cost of our journey fr
Eng. to Eng. & return, wou
be considerable less tha
the difference, between,
amounts we now both ar
& what we shall receiv
when together in Eng.
Don't misunderstand m

the Board is always
most generous & consider
te in these matters but
want know how straight-
nded the treasury is & I want
ou to know I have thought
n all sides of the question.
The time as you know
getting late for cross-
g those mountains with
baby. May I hear from
u at an early date as
ssible. Is it not a time
en ~~the~~ a telegram might
used, if your answer
uld be sent so.

And if you & the P. C
think favorably of th
plan, will you kind
let me know what ex
pense I might hope
have. I should like a
short a route as possi
Brenin is just, thre
twenty four hours fro
bple. ✱ Is Miss Dur
to join her Father an
can you give me her
address - I should b
bple. Nov. 1st at the ve
latest, & should hop

reach there Oct. 20th
It is just a year today
since we left there, and
what a long & trying
year it has been!
Hoping that you can
give the matter your
earliest attention—
I am very sincerely
Cornelia P. H. Chambers.
A letter will after all
more satisfactory, & a spec-
delivery stamp ~~is almost~~
ens a letter very promptly

Mrs. C. A. H. Chambers

Sherburne Chenango Co.
New York. Sept. 24th

Dr. Barton,

Your letter has just
me to hand & is indeed
ost reassuring. How
ly am I grateful that
er at Boston is filled
hence of my return, but
s pleasing that there
prospect of such good
pany - I wish we
ht sail by Oct. 6th or at
latest the 9th. Yours

must remember that
have a mountain good
high to cross before reach
Erzroom, and with a b
I am most anxious to a
home as early in Nov. a
possible. The weather
way is you know much
colder than towards the
port.

Another point, I sho
very much like to avo
Eng. that route involv
so many more stops a
changes. I shall be tra
ing with three children

nd without a nurse.
ny hope had been that
ould take a steamer
some European port
nnin or Brussels or
uxbourg, all of which
ces are about twenty
r hours from Vienna
ne with a rest of a
ght perhaps, reach
le in four or five days
n the sea-coast.
w I fear Mr. Hunting-
n & Miss Dickie will
nt to stop a little by
way, a most delight-

ful thing to do, & I sho
be sorry that they sho
not on my account. B
I really feel that it is
very necessary that
should get over the gre
as rapidly as possible
Kate has twice been se
ill, by living too long
hotel food. she is a chi
of whose diet we have
be most careful. As
baby I shall have to p
pear her food my sel
an alcohol lamp. I
Oriental express more
pensive than taking
week or ten days for ge

ing over the grounds to Ephe.
ould not her Hemming
ou put me on the Oriental
xpress, I do not know at
hat point I should have
take it, & he & Miss Dick-
came on at their leisure
o not want to interfere
ith their seeing a little
the cities we pass thro.
t with children I should
e to pass on as soon as
sible. If it is more
ensive to go by the C. E.
n take the journey slow-
let me know if you can
much. What the

Board would feel the
could not meet, I wish
like to supplement. I
that with the advantage
a sleeping car I could
along very comfortably.
here is not for the baby
had I my husband I
do as we always have t
an ordinary 2nd class
Then as to the line of
steamers which would
you recommend. I
which touching the no
European ports make
ductions for passengers
Has the Prudential
acted on the request

from Epl. that is are
to consider it settled
that we go to that field as
soon as supply is sent
Everyone. Please pardon
but my permission to
turn was gotten on the
ground of a temporary stay.
have had to urge much
against my husband's con-
st.

We is a point I am sure
husband would make
be here, may I make it
him. Being a man has
found to release Dr. Gates
annual missionary work
cannot see. Yours

go to relieve Mr. Cole & he
Ashdown. Spend the winter
in Carroom & get into
work there. did it ever
cur to you that Keithis
not a good place in wh
to learn American. It se
a pity a new man should
have every advantage po
sible in that line.
I enclose a letter for yo
from Mr. Chambers.
I do hope it can be pl
ned that we sail the 6
the 9th. I shall likely g
to Philadelphia by Wedn
if we can sail by the 9th b
I hear soon with regard
this point. Yours sincere
C. P. H. Chambe

d. 25th " A thought came to
e in the night I wonder
hat you will think of it -
y nurse did not wish to re-
urn to Turkey & went to an
nt of hers in the West early
s week. Do you think that
iss Dickie would be willing
ssist me a little. I find
o the question is settled
m very much dreading
ourney. I u as much
the season is so late wd.
Dickie be inclined to take
ny direct route, & could
not come to h. f. & so be
h as for the ocean voyage
ng direct to Brenilo &

this Fiona, stopping a
day there & taking the
press from there. I am
very poor sailor, & am al
sorry to confess that th
excitement of all this wi
in addition to the nights
of baby is telling on me
Alas my nervousness i
such a ~~dominant~~ subtle thing
rising very implacab
ly, & preventing sleep
when I need it most.
Please remember this
only a suggestion, for you
act on or not as seems to y
best. The snows often cover
the mountains by the 15th of

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers,

9-30-97
30

301

Sherburn. N. Y.
Sept 28.-

ar Dr. Barton-

I have not telegraphed to
u today because I just did not
now what to say about the Mon-
al route. I go to Phil. tomorrow
hould like to consult with my
ther. May I ask what the dif-
ence in expense will be for
h person, that is from N. Y.
to Osend, by sea & by Montreal
rpool & London. Of course if
re is a great difference I d.
t to take the route that
ld involve the less expendi-
. The Montreal route involves
ed deal more of rail road
ing with the baby, & changes

tho I appreciate that it will dim
the bad part of the sea, & likel
lessen the sea-sickness period -
Talcott will be 11 in Oct. 19th
Kate was 8 in April 27
Dorothea is 14 months old.
I do not want to appear too pe
sistant, but one question I s
have not answered, or rather
do not understand the force of
answer, Is not my request
a return to Ery. understood
be for a limited time, & here
why does not the P.C. need to a
on the part of the vote just pas
by C.I.M. with regard to the i
mediate supply of Ery.?

I am feeling far from well, t
excitement of this sudden chang
of plans tell on my nerves - I a
most sorry to say, I do n

e why I dread the journey so.
will just the children's names
date of birth again, as I do
ot think I have stated it just
you want it -
nother reason why I desire to
ow if the place of our future lo-
tion is settled, is that I do not
re to transport to Everyone
ch things as we would not need
ring the Winter & Spring.
My brother has moved; his pres-
t address is 916 Pine Street.
il. Pa.

Yours sincerely -
Cornelia P. H. Chambers -

Scott Williams Chambers Oct 17. '86
te Ethel Chambers April 27. '89
thea Nesbitt Chambers May 20 '96

Mrs. C. P. H. Chambers

11-15-97
12-7

382

Constantinople
Nov. 1st 1897.

ear Dr. Barton.

Others will notify you
our arrival here, but I think
ou may be glad to hear a few
articulars of our journey.
We arrived Oct. 27th just
o weeks & four days from
ontreal, which considering
he ocean voyage was 11 days
as I think about as rapid
aveling as is often done.
he "Labrador" was a very good
eamer, & the steadiest one I
as ever aboard. Our state
oom was just at mid-ships
good large one. The steward
a nice body, who waited
on us all we needed & most
erfully too. As soon as we

reached the ocean we ha
bad weather, & later a ha
storm, but fortunately I w
never too ill to do what
necessary for the children
The other ladies were look
& Miss Dickie very badly
became unconscious one d
& she was also train sick
of the way. Mr. Hunting
was the only member of th
party that escaped. He w
just fine, most attentive
thoughtful for all our nu
merous wants. He managed
the party admirably, & we
untiring in his efforts
make us all comfortable
We went on to London the
day we landed, spent two d
there, which I devoted to re
ing, & took the 57 hours to

ienna via Flushing at one
hetch, the channel did its
orst by us. It was far easier
n fifteen or, than have frequent
tops. The car was not crowd-
d. & we had ample room by
ny taking baby into the 1st
las compartment just for
he night. Between Vienna
here there was a sleeper on,
nto which Miss Dickie baby
I went for each night, leav-
g the whole compartment
the others, so all got good
st. The sleepers were only 2.50
ch. A Restaurant car part
the way helped us out. Of
urse there were hard moments
baby did not sleep well nigh
t all together as I look back
e that the journey was a
ry comfortable one. During

in great measure to his Hum
ious kind helpfulness, but
than all to the kind Provi
that I knew was watching
over us. Having reached h
so soon & so easily, it is hard
to have Mr. Chambers delay
ed by a severe storm on the
Black-sea. They put into S
some where they still were a
last accounts, on Sat. the de
breathe Thursday before. B
this to is doubtless ordered
we hope it means fine wea
for us later. Mr. Chambers
a good deal to do here, dentis
&c. Unless he gets in today I
hardly see how we can get
this week. The bruises El
arrived on Sat. We are al
ready to be off at the earlie
possible moment, but th

avers which have rained a
hole week still pour down
n streams -

Hard as this idle waiting
, it is a rest for us all, and
e all show good results there
on - I am pleased, greatly
hased to see how well I have
ood the strain, I sleep very
ell & feel in as good condi-
ion as any time this year -
We are at my old home in
ntari, Miss Dickie is in Stam-
oul, & I am sure the rest is
ood for her, for she was very
ery tired when we started -

The misses Ely are looking
ery well, & full of hope and
ourage for their work -

You will hear of the diffi-
lty, the engaged couple
re having about getting mar-
ied - The presence of a bore -

suit is needed to make the c
mony legal, & Bitlis has a
consul. further more each
them must have a three
weeks residence ~~to for~~ in E
room before they are marri
this is Eng. law - So it wi
be near Xmas before they c
leave Erzeroum, & I don't s
how Miss Dickie can make
the journey at that season

I want to thank you for all y
help & kindness, during th
long years of separation fro
my husband, it has been a
great help & comfort to fee
sympathy, & know that I h
your help. May the Lord
give you strength, for the
heavy drain on you, & spare
to us all many years.

Very gratefully yours
Cornelia P. H. Cham

The agent of the S.S. Dominion
line gave my sister who went
to Montreal with me, the
courtesy of the ship" as far as
Quebec. It seemed to me a
very handsome thing for
him to do, & I think you
should know of it. It was
so much for me to have her
self with the baby till Sun-
day morning, for I was very
tired. My week's mail of 12
letters was handed me just be-
fore we left Quebec, having
run the rounds of Morristown
Auburn & Philadelphia, but
all is well that ends well.
Mr. Huntington took charge
of the finances, he left here
the day he arrived & is to
send me a statement of ex-
penditures which I will
forward to Mr. Higgin

Miss Effie M. Chambers

303 — 321

Miss Effie M. Chambers

303

Anderson Iowa Aug. 9. 93.

Mrs E. E. Strong. Filed Aug. 12

Boston Mass.

Dear Friend.

Your letter of recent date brought glad tidings to me. I am so thankful the Board have decided that I am fitted for foreign work. I so much want to do it.

You say the decision of where I go is to be left until after further correspondence with me. Will you please tell me some thing if the vacancies be filled, how soon the Board would like me to be ready to go and what my salary will be ~~out~~ if it will be

a stated amount of my
r, what I need for my su
drawn from a common f
I ask this because I hav
nothing of my decision to
any except a very few o m
best friends. I knew there
would be many objectio
to my plan, so to save tim
and strength I have said
nothing about it. But I
must tell and when I m
I would like to be able t
make the statement as c
and concise as possible
they will be convinced th
it is not a hastily fo
plan which a little coax
will dislodge but one ca
fully thought over and d
upon.

When I hear from you
first what the vacancies

and to which one the Committee think me best adapted. I can then know just how to make my announcements.

I shall be away from home for about three weeks. My address will be Kenrett Iowa. Please write me there in care of C. F. Billings.

Thanking you for your kind wishes I am,

Very Sincerely

Effie M. Chambers.

Miss Effie M. Chambers
Anderson, Iowa, Sep. 21. 1893
Rec'd Sep. 26.

304

REC'D SEP 28 1893
ANSW'D 29

Anderson Iowa Sept 21 '93.

Dr Judson Smith,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Friend.

I rec'd yours of Sept. 6, last evening. It had been sent to Anderson Indiana, instead of Anderson Iowa. I am very sorry for the accident. I will do the best I can with the time I have left, be in Boston, Oct 13th. Shall I pack all my goods in boxes? Shall I bring anything from home except sheets and pillow-cases? How many of my own books will be allowed to take and may I make my own selection?

Union Office No. Chesterfield
Hardinsburg, Iowa, Sept. 21, 1873

Dear Sister &c.

Will I have time to make
purchases in Boston?
If I will, $50.00 of my allow-
ance money will be all I need
sent to me here. If you will
please send me this much
right away I shall be greatly
obliged. Please send the letter
in care of H. C. Chambers
Anderson Iowa writing the
name of the state in full
and I think there will be no
more delay. If I must buy
everything I need before I start
I shall need $75. instead of
. Please give Mr Stoett
whatever instructions you think
best in regard to furniture.
Any thing else I can get in
Boston as well I prefer doing
. Please give me explicit
directions for my boxes. I am so
afraid you will think there are many

questions but I so much want
to know about them. How shall
I send boxes, by express or fr
Will you send me a ticke
or the money for my ex pens
to Boston?

I am in your letter
was detained. I should be
pleased now to hire some wo
done which I could have do
for myself had I known co
of my destination sooner.

Please let me hear
letter as soon as I leave
do whatever offers best.

Please send
the enclosed
as respects to
my thing else I can get in
order as well I prefer them
Please give me explicit
directions for my trunk.

Miss Effie Chambers,
London, Oct. 31. 1893.
Rec'd Nov. 11.

London, England. Oct. 31. '93.

Rev. Judson Smith,
161 Somerset St. Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr Smith,

You will see by the above
n pencilling that we are safe in
London, at last you will see we are
here and this letter will assure you
we are safe.

We had a very pleasant voyage.
The weather was fine and we enjoyed
it very much. We landed in Liverpool
Saturday afternoon about two o'clock.
After passing our luggage through
the custom house we went to the Adelphi
Hotel where we remained until Monday
morning. We then came to London
and our rooms with Mrs Lorry and
since have been completing our

preparations. We leave next Monday
en route for Paris. Our route has bec
come what changed on account of the qu
antine which still hold out in the
Mediterranean.

We are all feeling very well a
very much rested. We feel that God ha
been especially good to us in every w

The entire party send their kind
to yourself and your associates.

Very sincerely yours.
Effie M. Chamber

Miss Effie M. Chambers.
Bardazag. Jan 8. 1894.
Rec'd Jan. 29.

366

Dear Dr Smith;

I have just time for a few lines to accompany the memoranda, which I have filled out, and return as requested, in the letter accompanying it. Since I did this, I rec'd your letter acknowledging the one I sent in London, and now I wonder if it is really necessary to send this one. I think I will however.

It seems a long time to wait, but I have tried to do it cheerfully and to interest myself in things and people around me. I have not been homesick

nor am happy.

I am picking up a few words of the Armenian. They tell me I get the pronunciation very easily. I find the words easy to remember so I think I shall learn it quite easily.

Mr Wm. Chambers is here from Erzroom. He came on for me. We start for Constantinople tomorrow, and from there take the first steamer to Batoum. We have permission to go through Russia, which on account of the time of year is better than Trebizond since there is not nearly so much snow connected with it.

I am very well. My stay both here and in Constantinople has been

made very pleasant by the kind-
ness of all the members of the sta-
tions. I have enjoyed my entire
journey with the exception of the
long waiting, very much indeed.

On our arrival at Ergoon
I will write you more fully of
the journey, the work &c.

The family here join me in
sending regards to you and in
wishing you a Happy New Year.

Very Sincerely yours,

Effie M. Chambers.

Erzroom Feb 2, 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith

Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:

At last, at last, my heart's desire is fullfilled and I am able begin the long waited for letter, to you, from Erzroom.

Mr Chambers came on to Constantiple for me, reaching there Dec 31. He was very tired from the journey so did not start on to Bardezag until Thursday. When he got to Demid (Nicomedia) only four or five miles from Bardezag he was arrested by the police, his letters and papers taken, among them two or three letters of mine, which he was bringing me from Constantinople. He was detained until almost noon Friday when he was allowed to come on. We had been anxiously expecting him since Monday evening. He was almost ill when he reached us. (The letters came Sat.). Of course I was ready to start for Erzroom immediately, but as there would be no boat until the following week, we remained at B. until Wednesday, then set out for Constantiple. On our arrival we found our steamer not in, and no news of her. So the only thing to do was to make ourselves as comfortable as possible and wait. This we did, and after

a week of not hearing anything, and when I had almost given up in despair, Wednesday evening Mr. C. came in saying "The boat has come, and sails at ten o'clock tomorrow morning. Can you be ready?" I said "Yes." So Thursday morning after bidding the friends who had been so kind to me both this time and in my former protracted stay, good-bye, we set out for the steamer, accompanied by Mr. Peat who remained with us until the boat was ready to sail.

We had a very pleasant voyage, The weather was delightful and the sea was very smooth. We landed at Batoum, Sat. eve. spent the Sabbath there, and early Monday morning left by train for Tiflis or rather for Aristophel a few miles beyond T. At Aristophel we spent the night, ~~there~~ as we were not able to procure horses, for the first stage of our journey as we had hoped to do. This was the most uncomfortable night we had; the accommodations were very poor. We could get no mattresses that I would agree to sleep on, so we spread our bedding we had with us on the hard wooden beds and using our wraps for covering, tried to sleep. It soon proved an impossible task, so at five o'clock A. M. we gave up the attempt, arose and prepared for our further

journey. Our preparation consisted in packing up the bedding, in packing the provisions, ordering our samovar for Russian tea, eating our bread and butter and meat and drinking as much hot tea as we could, then repacking the provisions.

I was so bundled up in cloaks and furs and robes of various descriptions that I scarcely felt the cold. This day we had a long ride of over forty miles in the post wagons, not very comfortable affair, ~~varied by the~~ the monotony of which was varied by an occasional promenade about the waiting rooms of the post houses and a glass of hot tea, while waiting for a change of horses. When we reached the post house where we hoped to stop for the night we found it ~~not~~ in no degree superior to the one of the previous night, and also filled to overflowing. We decided to rest awhile, until fresh horses were brought in, then make the next stage. They came about ten o'clock and we set out for nine miles more this time in a sleigh. We reached the place about one A.M. and found quite comfortable accommodations. On Thursday evening we reached Riga and while there were very hospitably entertained by a family of American brethren, who seemed delighted to see us and feasted us on the fat of the land. We held a reception all the evening, one after another of the brethren dropping

in until the room was filled. When they had all gathered in, the head of the house taking a large Bible from its place, ~~handed~~ handed it to Mr C. then turned the conversation on religous topics. They talked long and earnestly. After the talk or sermon was finished and we had been led in prayer by Mr C. they bade us good bye with many kind wishes.

Here we had some trouble getting ~~our~~ our examination of our passports as were unable to leave until noon. These Protestant friends gathered to see and were quite profuse in their good wishes for us both and especially for the new "vargnee". The post ends at Kars, so ~~from~~ there on we had a sleigh hired in Kars. ~~Saturday~~ Friday night was spent in Saracamish, a border town, with another of the brethren. Here I made my first Armenian conquest. The little boy took a great fancy to me and when I went to the consulate for a short time, he cried and said, they had taken his Auntie, and he wished they would hurry and bring her again. Saturday we reached the border but the authorities would not let the driver cross over the lines so I had to sit in the sleigh and wait until Mr C. could go to the village on the Turkish side where our servant was waiting

for us with a sleigh to take us on to Erzroum. They came, and carried the things we had in the other sleigh across the line, transferring them to ~~the other~~ our own sleigh. We walked over, and got in to the ~~other~~ sleigh and drove down to the village. While they were making the final arrangement for the journey Mr B. took me into a khan to wait and to have some tea. It was a dreadfully dirty looking place. A platform, about 3½ ft high, extended the full length of the room on each side, forming table, seats and beds for all who came. These platforms were covered with a coarse matting, fairly clean. The floor was of earth and when they did dish washing the water was thrown there. Soon we went on from there and that night we spent in a stable, so dark that when we first entered we could see nothing. Here also the people were very friendly, and Mr C. gave them a talk or sermon to which they listened very attentively. They seem anxious for a preacher and teacher of their own and there seems to be a splendid opening for the extension of our work there as soon as the funds will permit it. The famine is everywhere. The haggard pale faces and hollow eyes of those people, haunt me still. I dont know what we shall do if relief does not come from some

quarter. Doubtless the other members of the station have written you fully regarding the want and destitution, in this region but it it seems so terrible to me for people to actually <u>starve</u> as they are doing here. Sunday we drove to the next village as Mr C wished to preach there. The people were very hospitable but more reserved in religious matters. and the women showed not the least friendliness for the new varguness. which was such a contrast to the nights passed in the other place. that it almost made me homesick. Mr C. preached and they listed respectfully and finally after he finished they asked a number of questions. The next morning (Monday) we started on again and in the afternoon reached E—. The children of the station come out to meet us. The missionaries expected us Sat. afternoon and came out quite a distance to welcome us, but of course were doomed to disappointment. So Monday they sent the little folks out for their daily ride expecting when they returned to come out again. but we came earlier than they expected so it was the children who met us. They are very much delighted over it, to think they were the fortunate ones.

I shall not try to describe my welcome. suffice

it to say it was warm and cordial enough to make one feel at home at once, not only from the Missionaries, but also from the Entire evangelical community. Ever since I came there have been callers at all times almost. Thus Hanazah called and about a half hour after our arrival and so it has been.

I was well all through the journey and not tired at all. At the end of it Mr C. made very this, very comfortable and pleasant for me. As I was not especially fatigued by the journey I talked the matter of study over with the brethren Tues, and began my lessons Wed.

I have all the morning for study except one hour. Half of this I have my lesson with my native teacher, Mon fra Effendi the head teacher in the boys school. for the pronunciation and Mr Macallum for the grammar. I am studying on the induction plan. They tell me my pronunciation is very correct and predict an easy conquest for me in that line and of course hard study will bring the other. The members of the station are all willing to hold on a little longer to the burdens they are bearing in the line of school work and let me have all the time I can profitably use for study. so for the present I am only to have an English recitation in the Primary department

to go in to the schools at any time I choose, to conduct an evening formal class for an hour once a week, for the teachers as they are greatly lacking in methods and in making study interesting. Sunday evenings I am to have the teachers and our two boarders come to me for an hour to read and talk, just a quiet hour such as a mother would give to her daughters. I am so anxious to get the language so I can take the entire work of the school but I know it will only come by hard study and, am so thankful for the thoughtfulness and kindness of the entire station in my behalf, shown in the willingness they all show to hold on a little longer.

My impression concerning my new field is, that it is the work my Heavenly father has given me to do, and I am very happy and glad to be here and make a begining. I feel that it is a field that require very careful thought and planning and much earnest prayer but I know I have the promise of strength and grace sufficient for each day and that many prayers are going up for me from the friends at home so I feel I cannot help succeeding.

I am afraid my letter is inexcusably long but as it is my first one and there was so much

Oyrom, F.O.
Tilla Mae
March 5, 1894
8 pages

Erzroom, Turkey. March 28. '94.

Dear Dr. Smith.

It is with a sad heart I begin this my second letter on the field, to which I came, only two months ago, full of enthusiasm, earnestness and eagerness for the work. I came with a warm cordial friendship in my heart for each member of the station. I received a warm welcome as I wrote you. It seemed best to the gentlemen of the station, that I should room at Mr Richardson's. as they had a comfortable room which they offered for my use; but I was to be left perfectly free to select my boarding place. and I also supposed myself free to go and come when I chose. Befor I had been there two weeks, Mrs R. had given me a detailed account of all their trouble in the station. The other two families said nothing. Mrs R. has a way of putting things, that leaves the impression that any wrong thing she may have done, was forced upon her by circumstances. I held my judgement of the others in reserve as you remember you asked me to do. in all things during my first year. and tried very hard not to show that I had heard. but at the same time the feeling was growing every day that I must for myself own peace and for the sake of the work, make a change. I felt all the time a fear that unconsciously a prejudice was forming in my mind against the other workers. that would not only

render our social associations unpleasant but would make me unwilling to receive suggestions from the gentlemen in regard to the work when I should be prepared to take it up. About this time Mrs R. began to assume an air of authority over me to which I as an independent American seriously objected. She seemed hurt if I went to visit either of the other ladies, or if they called on me in my own room. Mrs Macallum asked me to take my meals with them for a week, that we might have an opportunity of becoming acquainted. I went but Mrs R. took it so hard, that I finally gave it up before the week ended. There were other things, small in themselves but still enough to make me very uncomfortable. Finally one evening she made such a time because Mr. Chambers was coming down to look over the appropriations with me that I was compelled to send a note asking him not to come. I made up my mind I would not endure it any longer. The next afternoon, I went over to Mr. Macallum's and told them how things were and that I was very anxious to make a change. I did not do this a matter of complaint, but as the first step in making the change. The American teacher's room was then occupied by the head native teacher. If I took the room she must be provided with another and I asked to know if it could be done. It seemed to me if I left that the proper thing was to come

over to the school building, as I wished to remain as nearly neutral as possible, being a friend to all at the same time not unduly influenced by any one. Mr and Mrs Chambers would have willingly given me a room in their house far more comfortable that the one I am now occupying, but I refused because it seemed to me it would give the Rs and the people reason to think I had gone over to the other side. When the time came and I was ready to move (I waited until Mr R. returned from his loving trip) I told the three gentlemen in station meeting, that I wished to be nearer the school, and asked that I might take Elmas my own room and that another place be found for Elmas. ~~The~~ Two of the gentlemen agreed. Mr R. alone dissenting. After the meeting he insisted that there must be some personal reason, and that they had not been fairly treated. I had made the school a pretext for going because I wish to keep the personal element out of it. But no: that could not be. It must be told Every thing must be gone over, and argued and talked of, until I was completely worn out. It was emphasized by the Rs or rather by Mr R. before the people until they were all stirred up, and were demanding a reason why I left. The past six weeks have been an utter loss of time to me, in every way. The excitement has injured my health, interrupted my study to say nothing of the spiritual deterioration and

cobbing of ardor for work, which I consider, by far the worst feature of the case.

The trouble, which is now being stirred about which Mr C. has written, hangs over us all like a cloud. Poor Mrs Chambers. Mrs R's entire spirit (if I may use the word) seems to be against her, and she seems to try to prejudice every new person who comes against her. I dont see how we can go on in the present association. There must surely some change be made. It seems to me that aside from all the trouble and the necessity for separation on that score; the condition of their child, ~~it seems to me~~ ought to send them, R's, to America. It is the unanimous opinion of the other members of the station, that it would do more to develop the child ~~that~~ than any one thing they could do.

I have written plainly because I feel strongly on this subject. I feel that it is not right, that my work should be hindered, and my first associations rendered so unpleasant, that it will always be painful to recall them. I do not say I wish I had not come, for I still feel that this is my work, but I do say this. Please do not think of appointing another single lady for Erzerum until this trouble is settled. I was sorry when I left America that there was no associate for me, but I am heartily glad now there is none. I see it is a great deal better there is

only one.

I enjoyed my Armenian very much until this trouble came. I have kept on studying but it is very difficult to apply myself to my work as I feel that I should. I can read and am begin to understand quite a little of conversation. I have begun making calls with the ladies - two a week, we have planned to make. I go with Mrs Chambers to call on the children in the Primary Dept of the S. S. Mrs C has chg of the S. S. and has given me the supervision of the Primary. The place where we called yesterday is the home of one of our S.S. scholars who also comes to our day school. They are Gregorians, but received us very pleasantly. (I like the people here very much.) I have an English class in the Primary School, a Normal class for my teaching, which meets once a week, an English class for the teachers which meets for half an hour on Friday evening after school is over. I also have charge of Teacher's prayer meeting which comes on Monday evening at the close of school.

Three of my boxes have arrived, one containing my toilet set another my lamp extra flues and two of the half dozen shades I was to have, I suppose the others are in some of the boxes which have not yet arrived. My third box contained my cuddles, and

various articles of wearing apparel. It does seem very nice indeed to see some of your own things once more after being separated from them so long.

The number of poor seems to be daily increasing. It is dreadful, the number of people who are absolutely without bread and almost without clothes. I do not see what will become of them. There seems very little hope that things will be any better next year as there was no grain, with which to sow the fields last autumn.

I hope next time to have a little more cheerful topic to discourse upon. I am trying to see in this a lesson I need, to fit me for my work and hope I shall find it. If I can it will not be so hard to bear. The end of it all must come, and I only hope I may be kept from doing things I shall be sorry for, when it is all over.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs Smith and to your associates also accept them for yourself.

Very sincerely yours.

Effie M. Chambers.

Emporia, Kansas
Rec'd April 29-1894
26

P.S. They have begun to tear down the building. I cant live on 75 liras here. cant my salary be at least put back to 81.? That is what the my predecessors have had. E.M.C.

Erzeroom Turkey. May 11. 1894.

309

Dear Mr Smith:

I am trying not to allow myself to be a dilatory correspondent and I hope you will not think me one. I know you would not if you could have looked in on us to day and seen what a busy lot of people we have been. "Why is this this" I hear you say. The reason is: the Turkish gov't has at last, given us the long sought permission to ~~build~~ repair our building, in which the Girls' school, the Macallums, and I ~~were~~ domiciled. As some of the building is to be torn down, which will probably render the rest unsafe we, were compelled to move out immediately. The Richardsons felt that they could not (as we used to say at school) divide up and let the Mrs have part of their house, and after any recent experiment at living thus and the sorrowful failure I made of it, I did not feel like a repetition of it again so soon. I talked with Mr M. and Mr M about it and they both thought it was not well for me to torture myself in this way. Mr M. thought it might give the Rs a chance to make amends for the past and that it might be well not to decide hastily. I acted on his advice. I thought the matter out

carefully and prayerfully and finally decided that in case I should be invited I must decline. The invitation however was given to me and our two girl boarders. They could not go on account of the Boys' school being there, as none of us would. Mrs Chamber opened her house to us all, as up we came. Now in the seven rooms there are nine of us to eat, live and sleep, but we dont mind the crowding. Every one is good natured about it. My one room since we came up has served as study for myself and nursery for the children as it is bright and sunny and the little folks have taken a fancy to it and are so good as long as I let them stay that it seemed to me over way at least in which I could aid the poor tired mothers, in bearing the share of moving. Besides the "little tots" there is a reading class from the kindergarten which comes up here, to recite. Today while we were in the midst of moving and had the halls both up stairs and down, piled full of our goods and chattles, what word do you think came to us. It was this "The "moyrear" wishes to come and visit the girls schools." We had to say let him come." Visiting the schools meant that we must invite him up to the parlor and serve refreshments in the shape of tea and cake. Mrs Ye and

I had been down at the old house since breakfast, packing her kitchen and dining room furniture as we all plan to board with the B's so will not need it. We worked until dinner time. When we arrived here we found every thing in commotion. "What's the matter" said I who happened to be ahead. "The monarch is coming" said one of the girls hurrying past me with her arms full of things. We joined in the fray and soon the halls were cleared, dinner was served, and we seated ourselves at the table with the consciousness that all our preparations were completed and we could were prepared to receive even the Sultan, should His Majesty deign to pay us a visit. He came, he saw, but here the time honored remark of Caesar must undergo a change, we conquered. He went away well pleased with his visit. He is a very pleasant looking man and seemed quite friendly to all of us. We are in high favor with the govt just now. We can get any thing we ask for. I do hope it will continue until we get our school building finished.

I am very happy here with the prospect of so much and such pleasant work before me. I like the girls very much they are pleasant obedient and respectful to me. My teachers are bright lovable girls who are very willing to submit to my guidance

and carry out my suggestions. I am longing for the time when I can take entire charge and work instead of wait. I am not making myself unhappy by worrying over it however, for I feel that the daily if wisely spent will save me many mistakes when I actually begin work. I am still spending five hours per day on the language, and am getting so I can understand quite a little, and can speak some.

I am quite well again now, though I find any extra exertion tires me very much. The ladies tell me this will pass away when I become accustomed to the altitude. I am learning to ride on horse back and like it very much.

I have done quite a little calling among the people. I enjoy it very much. I hope I can have an associate. There is so much need of another lady here, but I know you will send her as soon as she can be found and the Lord will show you where to find her when he is ready for her to come. Until then I can wait.

With the very kindest regards to yourself and associates I am.

Very sincerely yours.

Effie M. Chambers.

Mary Emerson
Field May 11, 1894
Field June 12

Erzroom Aug 31. 94.

Dear Dr Barton,

Allow me to congratulate you - or perhaps sympathize with you (according to the view you take of it) that the Lord has kept you in America, instead of permitting you to join us here in Turkey as we hoped. It must be hard in some ways to give up the work here. One grows interested very soon. I find it very absorbing. Still on the other hand there is a great deal you can do there that one who does not know the peculiarities of the people, and work in this country can not. and the Lord knows what is best for us all.

Dr Smith, when I was leaving America asked that I should write very frankly and fully to him as to the state of affairs here especially where they related to me in any way. I have done so until lately. Things seemed to be growing worse and worse I decided to write no more to any one in America about the trouble. unless the time should come when it seemed my duty to resign from this station. That time has come and with letter to you I enclose my resignation to the Prudential Committee

My reasons for this step may be all summed up in this one statement. The Chambers and I are absolutely incompatible and I can not live alone here with them, as I will be when Dr Richards goes to Erzingan, as the Macallums will be in March this year.

My trouble with ~~the~~ him Richards ~~about~~ that Mr C made so much of in every way, has long ago been amicably settled and since we have come to understand each other, the relations between the R's and myself have been most cordial. We seem to harmonize better than any other people in the station, and if they were to stay I should not ~~ask to~~ they my resignation. With the Macallums my relations have also been pleasant, but they are not here either.

My trouble with the C's is not an outgrowth of the trouble between them and the R's, but is entirely independent of it, and apart from it. It began when Mr R and I were not exchanging confidences in the least and when I had scarcely more than a speaking acquaintance with Mr R. When I did talk it over to get advice, as to what course I should pursue it was with the Macallums I talked. I did this for two reasons: first because the R's were not in a condition to advise impartially and had trouble enough of their own, and second because even though they had been able to so advise they would have been accused of stirring me up against the C's. Since the going of the M's I have spoken to Mr R once or twice and his advice was to stay if I could. When they, the R's, have spoken it has been to quiet matters.

I do I do not wish to enter into details, but only to state ~~in~~ as briefly as possible, the reasons, which have convinced me, it is right to take this step.

I can be led but not driven. Mrs C. can drive but not lead. in other words he is very autocratic - and ~~perf~~ I am very stubborn. so you see there is continual clashing. His treatment of me at different times has so diminished my confidence in ~~them~~ him that it has become an impossibility for me to talk freely with him on any subject. Having been here so short a time it seems to me absolutely necessary, that I should be able to speak freely and ask counsel and advice on all or any part of ~~any~~ the work in my charge.

Mrs C. meddled in my work to such and extent that ~~the~~ I was compelled to ask her to let the girls school entirely alone and to say nothing to her whatever in regard to work. except in the S.S. of which she is in charge. Then we work together without a clash because I simply do as she says.

It seems needless to say more. I feel that it is impossible for a single lady to stay here in Eng. alone with a family, with whom she is not and cannot be on pleasant terms. It will harm us both and accomplish nothing for the work. The need here is great. I realize. There is much a woman can do. that can not be done without her. I am doing well in

any language and am getting a good hold on the women and girls. Were ~~our~~ relations pleasant between the Ex and me, I should enjoy the work very much. But as they are not, I must ask the Committee to accept my resignation, and rather let me come home to America or transfer me to another station where I will not be so entirely alone. I regret very much the necessity of this step, but I feel I am doing right in taking it and that the Lord will guide me in what is best to do afterward. I have prayed and prayed over this trouble, I wrote to Dr Barman about it and his answer was, to be patient and try and get along, but if I found I could not to resign. This was before I was alone here.

Pray for us all that God may guide us and show us what is right.

Very sincerely yours

Effie W. Chambers.

Erzroom, Aug. 31, 1894.
Rec'd Sept. 24.

Erzroom Turkey, Sept. 21. '94.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Yours of Aug 24th. rec'd this morning. I was sorry to hear of Dr Smith's ill-health and hope the rest he is getting will soon enable him to resume his work again as I know it must be hard for him to bear it even only for a time.

When I wrote that letter of May the 11th I did not know Turc to as I do now or I would have seen through her scheme. After I wrote then just as I knew the end but since that time there has been some interesting development which I feel it is only just to the R's you should know and as they principally concern me, I think I am the one to tell you.

I was too new at that time to be allowed to be present at any election meetings, and of course entirely too new, to know any thing that happened there at. Though the avowed purpose of making such a long journey on the dead of winter at such a tremendous expense was that I might be come acquainted with the workings of Egotation, but babes must be fed with milk, you know and Ers-

room Corporation was probably considered too ~~hard~~ strong food for me, so I was told nothing except of the two that were, had been and expelled to be, When the Clergy(?) met to consider the moving question Mr R objected to giving the Mis rooms in their house but said they would give rooms to Mounsphe Effendi, (two that would be) and would give two rooms at the C's for the use of the Mes, the C or wherever needed them. They also offered to give me a room, and another to the teachers and our two girl boarders, if I wished them to come down with me, also or to me alone. They had already given the girls head teacher a room when I wanted the one she had at the school. I did not know of their offer of a room to me until long after, as it was made to Mr M. and he did not tell me about it. I feel that I blamed unjustly with selfishness. It is as Mr R has said since, they love the work and it is very hard for them to go, and to have the very persons in the house whom they felt were instrumental in pushing them out

was more than they could and since I came to know all I dont blame them.

As to our trouble here, it is as you say a dreadful thing but I dont see any hope of things getting any better even after the Rs who have had to bear the blame of it all do go, unless I go too, because there are not as cordial relations existing between the chambers and me as between the Rs and Cs. I can't live with Mrs C. She wont work herself neither will she let other people do so. She tells the girls, she dont think it any harm for them to speak to boys or do things to attract their attention. she used to do it when she was a girl and it was fun. The only way we ladies can keep friends with the Cs is to sit down and do no work at all among the women there. Mrs Rs was not even allowed to make calls on the Protestant sisters of the community because Mrs M. was in charge of Women's Work here. She (Mrs R.) gave some lesson books to some S. S. teachers girls she had had in her own house several years, and they visited she was used doing with Mrs C's work

Mrs C's has charge of the S. S. and as the rest of course interfere she manages it to her own satisfaction. I have nominal charge of the Primary Dept but I dont care to really take charge for fear of trouble. So I agree with you that chief does more harm than absence, and for that reason, because there can never be any thing else between the Cs' and me. I am willing to resign if the Board wishes so that I should but not willing to stay here with the Cs.

I was in Eaginaw, when Thea Tris left. (which by the way I think was not altogether a brave thing on Tris part if he gets along so admirably with the Cs. He helped to get Tris R out, and as soon as that was completed to his satisfaction, gets up and goes himself, though he knows the Cs and I are not working harmoniously. What do you think?) When I returned and found Thea gone, and the Rs going I said I would go some place and stay until I could hear from Boston and Chicago that I would not try to stay, but Mr. R said I must not do it. He insisted so strongly upon it that at last I agreed to stay and await orders from the Boards. I am taking up work as though I had no thought of re-

signing. But at the same time I feel that to remain here with the Es. would be very injurious not only to me but to the work. The extra amount of news from it will require will be more than I can spare in addition to the heavy work of the entire work of the school, with only a few months of greatly interrupted study.

I have written Dr Barnum for advice on the subject and also Beardsley, and in the meantime am trying to think as little as I can about it and do my work as best I can, until the Board can have time to do some thing to relieve the state of affairs here. Dont allow any of the Es assertions, or good promises to cause you to let the matter rest, because they seem to mean nothing, judging from past experience. I feel that for one to try the experiments longer is not unlike Irishman's horse who was to be taught to live without eating. You remember his fate, without an attempt to joke in such a matter, I truly feel that it is utterly useless for us to try any longer. It is not a thing that will smoothe out as I become more accustomed to the work but one that will increase as time goes on.

The mission field is a hard place for a single lady, in many ways at best and I cannot believe that either the American or Woman's Board will any one to stay when she is not and cannot be happy. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible as to what I shall do.

Very sincerely yours

Effie M Chambers

Oxford, Miss. Sept. 21. '94
Recd. Oct. 18.
Ans.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-22
Ans'd 12-27

Egremont Junction. Nov 26. 94

Dear Dr Smith

It was an oversight, the omission of my signature in my letter to Mrs Barton. I intended to send it as I believed it was my duty. Now, I am not sure that it is not but things have quieted down so much between the Bs and myself that I should like to wait a little longer, especially as the work here is just what I want.

If however the Prudential Committee desire it as easier way out of the trouble, or as for the guarantee that there will be no more of it, I am perfectly willing to hand it in. and for that reason, I here resign it to the Committee

Member of the Pud. Comm.

Boston Mass.

Dear Brethren:

I herein tender to you my resignation from Egremont station. if in your minds, it will be a step toward the settlement of the present sad state of affairs, and will enable those who remain to work in greater harmony and accomplish the Lords work here.

(over)

I thought as we all did, that the Lord's call was clearly heard telling me to go and work for Him in Engroom. I came willingly, gladly, ready to do all I could for Him, but the blighting atmosphere of this miserable trouble, like the upas tree of Java contaminates all who enters into it. I feel that only in the power to live peaceably with any associates have I failed. But such a failure is sufficient it seems to me to prove me unfitted for the work. Whether I shall resign or "try again." I leave to you.

Very sincerely yours.

Effie M. Chambers.

Engroom, Nov. 20, 1894.
Rec'd Dec. 22.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-31
Ans'd 1-8-95

Erzerum Dec 8. '94.

Mr James L. Barton,
Boston Mass.

Dear Mr Barton

Your two letters were rec'd by last post. As to my feelings in the matter I am willing to stay or go just as the P. C. wish. The thing I want is to stop this row. I think we have all done and all suffered wrong and it seems to me I have suffered as much at least as any other. but I should be heartily to forget it all and try to do some of the work I came out to do.

The C's and I for the past two months have gotten on smoothly and I think the same might come if we both try when these misunderstandings would cease. So much for the C's.

Mrs M. I don't know. Last week a very strange letter came from her. I have never had any trouble with her that I am conscious of. and when she left for Marash, or rather when I left for Erzingan, I was not here when they left, I supposed we were the best of friends. In the letter above alluded to she writes.

If my [illegible] I came out over the mountains [illegible]

"Are you above the suspicion of double dealing in this matter." Why should she accuse me of double dealing in this and more than I should her. just because I forgave the R's when they asked me to do so and I had reason to feel that they meant it. Is it not right to forgive people when they confess having done wrong and ask pardon? After I forgave them must I go on treating them the same as before.

If Mrs M is suspicious that I am not dealing justly is it well for me to stay if they return? I ~~ay~~ ask it as a question.

About the R's going. pray don't think I want them to stay. ~~or go~~ if their going is necessary to bring peace to the station. I have a right to my own personal opinion in the matter of who is right. and who ought to go. but I do not intend that it shall in the least affect my relations with those who remain in case it seems best for me to remain here. What change further development may produce in my thoughts on this connection this subject I am unable to say. This is the way I feel now.

Very respectfully.

Effie McChesney.

Enclosure, Dec. 8, 1894.

Dear Mr Barton.

J. L. B.
c'd 7-12-95
" "

You asked me to write freely to you on the subject of this trouble here. I have tried, and pardon me if I say I think I have succeeded in viewing the matter calmly and without undue feeling. My decision is this. It does not seem to me wise to remain here. I have tried for the past three months, to let bygones be bygones and have done every thing I could to establish harmonious relations between myself and the Sis. and have failed. It is my nature to make few confidants and those only among tried and true friends of long standing so naturally can not be very confidential with Mrs C. I dont understand her I am afraid. She objects to every thing that the people care for. making calls and all such things. She is not strong enough for the calls and her home duties too, but it does not seem to me that is any reason why she should try to hold me back from going. I enjoy the people and like to go among them and they like to have me come. I feel if I am to attain any degree of success either in school work or home work I must be come acquainted with the people. and study their dispositions and customs more than I can in a few minutes' call. I dont care to establish any candid familiarity with the people and never converse

~~[illegible]~~ with them on the trouble or in regard to my associates any more than to answer the questions asked as to the health of the two callers and the Rs. I never allow the discussions to go further. I am questioned so closely as to all my plans - goings and comings &c till I feel as if I had no freedom left. I feel that I have a right to go and come when I please, and to arrange my work as I like, and do it in the way that seems best to me. I am willing to take advice from successful workers but when a person is not successful I dont care to adopt their methods.

I feel that my staying will keep up the same trouble that has been, to a certain extent.

Then too if the Ms return the worshipful attitude they have assumed toward the C's and the way the M. goes over to Mrs L's view of things as soon as he can find out what that view is, makes it desirable that he should return if the C's stay but it also makes it desirable that I should go, as I very much desire to do.

You spoke in one letter of its not being necessary that all should think alike. It is if you are to be a peaceful or even a peaceable member of Exposition station. Let me give you an instance. Some time ago when I was sick and seemed to be getting worse in stead of better it was thought best for

sincerely yours.

Effie M. Chamberlin

P.S. I hope you will not feel that I am fickle or unjustly suspicious - for you must remember that many things have transpired since I wrote. The constant occurrence of "the unexpected" makes me feel that the work will suffer rather than gain by our remaining here together. It was for the peace of the station the R's went, and I think for the same

C. or I am angled - by E. M. C.

I don't think I would be unwilling to go with you anywhere abiding you would can not wishing to be alone

Dear Mr Barton—Will you please
be kind enough to forward the enclosed
letter to the proper address. I have
no home letters for three months and
am very uneasy. I am afraid they
do not get my letters. and dont know
that I am not getting theirs I am
sorry to trouble you, but will take
it as a great favor if you will
send the enclosed as I can then be sure
it will reach its destination
(over)

me to go away for the winter. I felt I could not go unless the Boding Department of the school could be closed. My reasons for wishing it closed were these. My going would leave the girls in charge of two young and inexperienced teachers, who are not much older than the girls themselves, and for whom the work is hard, under any close supervision, and a native matron whose honesty and integrity I have good reason to doubt, and who has a young son who is not to be trusted further than one can see. Mrs C had the boys school the rest of the station work, including book work and the accts. and is also stated clerk of the Mission. Mrs C admitted she could not take charge of it as she was not strong enough to do so. Under these circumstances I asked that it might be closed if I was to go, or rather said I would go if it could be closed. Mr C objected but finally brought the thing before the Executive Committee. They objected to the closing of it. As they were a majority I submitted and would have dropped the matter and said nothing more about it only I gave up going away. But the Cs kept talking and talking about it trying to convince me I ought to go and leave it until at last I requested them to say nothing more about it, and finally insisted that I would

Conn, Jan. 16, 1895

stay and go on with my work. Mr C has written about it to different members of the mission. We did not think alike on the subject and dont yet: but I yielded without further contest when the (Ex. Com said "no." "without wanting asking why though I gave my reasons very fully" but have heard no thing about closing the Dept. since. But why there should be fur the pressure brought to bear on me to make me own that I was wrong in wanting the other thing I cant see. It is that way in many thing we dont agree in and there are very few in which we do. The submission to the thing because the majority says so does not satisfy them but you must give up every thing and <u>think</u> just as they do.

The C's and the Mis will be a majority, and of course the minority which in this case it my self, ought to withdraw, unless they <u>can</u> be made to understand that - being sent to take charge of Inmans work - there are <u>some</u> things I have a right to decide for myself. I leave it to the com. whether I go or stay. but beg that you will give the matter dare consideration. ~~and~~ It would be far easier to go now than later when I have grown more deeply interested in the work as the R's have had to do. With the decision of this case before me, and the sensitivity of my case

4-29-95

Miss Effie Ney Chambers
Elizabeth April 6th 95.

315

My dear Miss Barton;

Please read the letter I enclose and forward to my father. I leave this next week for Lebanon. as the doctor here says it is absolutely necessary for me to get away from here in order to get rid of the malaria. I seem to have absorbed an unusual amount. and his medicines seem to have no power to ~~shake~~ break it. I get better for a while then it ~~seems to~~ returns with redoubled vigor. I am sorry to go but there seems to be nothing else to do. I have not been able to do school work for more than a month. About staying - if you think after knowing what you do of the state of things here, that I ought to stay or rather that I ought to return here. I will do and use every means in my power work harmoniously with whomever may be here. but may I ask that you think matters over carefully. When one is

alone as I am, congeniality is worth a great deal. But as I said if the P.C. wish me to remain here I am ready to obey.

If I am to remain will it not be possible for me to have an associate this year. It is so hard to work here without one. Is there no body for us? Dr Daniels wrote last year to Mr Macallum that he had some one in view, but she could not be sent until this "row" was settled. Is it nearly enough settled so she can come? Excuse this short letter. It is nearly post time. I will answer your last in Tabriz. I am so sorry for extra expense to say nothing of giving the work. Give my regards to your associates and pray that the Lord may give me grace to submit to his will

Very sincerely yours
Effie M Chambers

Address me in Tabriz.

Effie M. Chambers
Lubigand Nov 7. 93.

316

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-3-93
Ans'd

Miss Hy Barton

"I am very sorry to find myself greatly in debt at the close of this half year. as I hoped to be able to live on my allowance but so far have failed.

I am making an appeal to the Mission but Mrs Chambers said I would do well to write the P.C also concerning the matter.

The items which have made my debt are these.

Dr's charges and medicines.	59.	= $40.60
Travling expenses to Lubigand (and return)	5/8	= 81.20
Armenian lessons	1 3/4	= 7.70
Part of Housekeeping Outfit	5.	22.00
To replenish things lost coming out. clothing and bedding	5.	22.00.
	38 3/4	
Total	38 3/4	= $173.50

Of these items, the 3rd and 5th I will try to make up from my salary, making my debt 32 instead of 38 3/4 leaves this sum I ask that the Prudential Committee grant me. as they were extra expenses I could not help in coming.

over

living, in Engroom, is expensive and si
to keep my whole mess within the bounds o
salary. I <u>must</u> keep house, as I can d
much cheaper than I can board. I can
keep house and all my expenses only am
to 60 piastres per week. While to board - in
table board alone is 70. piastres. besides
70. I furnish my own wood, lights, ser
and pay for washing and ironing, so you can
it is better for me to keep house - alt
rather lonely, and that to live on $81 wh
some of it must go for wood. I must
economize. As I said before I am
sorry to ask for this grant but I do no
see what else I can do.

Very sincerely you

Effie M Chamber

P.S. Will you kindly <u>insist</u> that Engroom
station state definitely to me <u>what</u> my work is. I
have tried in vain to procure such a stat
ment. I should like to know definitely
what Woman's work is in one station. I
supposed I had charge of all the work th
Woman's Board supports in Engroom stat
as I am the only representative of that Board
on the station. Have I or have I not? I should
like to know.

J. L. B.
6-13-95
7-19

Erbizond May 24. 95.

Dear Dr Barton

Yours of Apr. 29th received. It was my first letter that came direct to Erbizond. The others have all come by way of Erzroom. How good it is to be here! Dr and Mrs Parmelee are kindness itself. Under Mrs P's kind care I have been obliged to drop the role of invalid and am now feeling some what like my old self again. The P's are an ideal family, and I am sure were Dr P. senior missionary at Erzroom. I should enjoy taking his advice, and if they and I were the only ones, I am sure the E. troubles would be things of the past.

Per hops you are right in regard to the effect of the malaria on my nervous system. If I had been well and strong I might have been able to have borne these things better. But I think there are some things which ~~I think~~ even a well person would find it hard to bear and be able to do effective work. I see no reason why they should be so either. The work is not benefitted thereby I am sure, and are the relations between the Chambers' and myself made more harmonious ~~thereby~~ by them. They are there. Let the undefiniteness of my work. I came out with the understanding that

I was to have charge of the Womans' work of Erzroom station including the principal ship of the schools. I did not understand that I was to be under Mrs Chambers - a sort of vice principal. but that is the position I have held. Of course I know that questions involving the expenditure of funds must be referred to the station and have always done so and submitted cheerfully to their decisions. but aside from that I think the station had no right to dictate, as Mrs C. had done. He may not think I am ready for the work, very well, if he does not think so then let the station say so and ask me to give up part of it, but as long as they do not do this, I claim he has no right to interfere with the discipline of the school (as he has done) or to listen to the complaints of teachers against me (which he has done also) I should like to have my position definitely defined. and I do not think it is asking too much, when I ask that it shall be done.
2nd. I don't not think Mrs Chambers has a right to interfere with my calls as she has done. I think I have a right to call when and where I please without being brought to account for it. Mrs C. objected strongly to my making a teacher's calls at the homes of my pupils because

she said it was some thing Mrs Richardson started. She was always questioning me as to where I went and making unkind remarks about my going as though I must ask her permission to go. Mrs Parmalee thought there must be some mistake about it, she said in the whole of her missionary experience she had never heard of such a thing as one missionary lady interfering with another in the way of calls. Neither do I like the attitude she takes in regard to my correspondence. It is not pleasant when your the post comes in to be compelled to undergo a cross examination as to my letters and their contents. To show you how unreasonable she is in her demands, I one day had a confidential letter. As they have charge of the post, she knew I got it. so began to question me about it. I said in answer to her question of did I have a letter from Mrs —. "Yes I had a letter." Then she began to question as to the contents to which I replied as kindly as possible, "Dont ask me about it please I cant tell you. The letter is confidential." She grew angry and said some very unkind things. Now will you tell me if you think I am so very unreasonable when I say I cant get on with Mrs C.? I know the P.C. and W.B.M.U. do not wish any body imposed upon. But cant you do some thing to stop it. I like the work and shall be glad to return to it if I can be free. Cant the case at least be looked

into. It is not only that I cannot endure such treatment but no single lady can. Besides if I cant do school work and cant call what good can I do there pray? Mr P advises me not to resign but to wait and see if any one else is sent to Es. The E work has a charm for me. I enjoy the people and their children and love to go into their homes. I enjoyed my last summer's work so much. I like it all except being dictated to by the Cs.

Mr C. is rather excited over the fact that the Board has been informed that the Govt. had £200 of the Building Funds money, and there was danger of its not being returned. He says I misrepresented it to them but I did not. Mr R, who was treasurer at the time the thing was done told me. If there is any misrepresentation in the case it is not mine. I should like to have the matter thoroughly investigated and see who is right. Hobannes Agha is said to have loaned the money, not the station. Mr C admits that the money was given to H.A. and says: "That is all the responsibility the station is charged." I should think that is enough. To let £200 get out of their hands and into the Govts (if Mr R is right) no matter through whose hands it passed. What right has Mr C to take me to task for writing to the W.B.M.I. about it? Have I not a right to write to the or the Secretaries on any subject I choose? Has he any right whatever to interfere

I do hope and pray some thing may be done so that none of the stations must be given up. Give my kindest regards also those of Mrs P to all at the rooms. Mr is away at Am. Meeting. Will you please tell me if any thing comes for "Selections" from the W.B.M.I. in my case.

Very sincerely
Effie M. Chober

Regarding the loan of £200

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-8-95
Ans'd 19

Trebizond June 5-'95.

Dear Mrs Clarke.

Your kind letter rec'd. I was of course very sorry to learn that you could not send me an associate. But perhaps it is as well. as there will have to be some radical change take place in Erzroom station before any single lady can live there in peace.

You know of the trouble existing between the C's and myself. I wrote you concerning it. I tried to live at peace with them but failed. After I came here I decided to make another trial and see if we could not come to an understanding, so I wrote Mr. C a letter frankly telling him the things wherein it was hard to get on with them asking them to do the same with me. thinking perhaps we might arrive at an understanding and be able to go on together. I was sorely Mr C. after saying number of things that did not mean any thing finally said this; "If nothing else it may be that Mrs C's health may open the way for us to leave. The question for the safety of Erzroom is relegated to Annual Meeting. My hope is now centered on that meeting, and I frankly say that if we cant get away, thought it may seem like presumption in me that I would urgently advise you not to return, both for your own sake and for ours. I will do what I can to induce An. Meeting to relieve me from the station. Then the way will open for you and

any one else whose the mission may call. Now my dear Miss Chambers, these are heavy words to write and that may seem harsh but I assure you that are written with the best wishes and prayers for your health welfare and work. I appreciate most heartily your advances & desire to get on a working basis I asked the station to define my duties and I am heart sorry to be compelled for conscience sake to write in this way. I communicated my views to Boston on receipt of the information that you felt hampered, because of our action." I ask you ladies to carefully consider this question and see if you can tell me how I should avoid feeling hampered. when my calls were interfered with, my letter and movements spied upon as they have been by Mrs C. and when Mr C. was continually interfering with what I supposed to be my own legitimate work. When I came no body tried to explain just what my work was. When the schools were turned over to me, nothing was said as to what I was expected to do. and when. I write frankly trying to find out what the matter is and ask that my work be specified this is the answer I get. In another place he says. "I tell you frankly that the fact that you felt hampered and that you made complaints to America chiefly the thought in my mind." (i.e. that I ought to have)" I do not deny that Mrs

Chambers and myself have our faults, but I think you have entirely misunderstood our motives and acts and I do not believe you will ever understand us so as to make association at all pleasant." They have always claimed that they were frank and open to conviction, but he does not answer a single question I asked him. He does not attempt to ~~explain~~ give a single reason. I wrote in good faith hoping to establish a better understanding between us, and this is the result. I asked him to state the trouble on his side but he does not. He says, "I know I am going contrary to what the ladies in Chicago and Dr Barlow would advise" (in taking this stand and meeting my advances in such a way)*. "But I prefer this risk to what I believe is a much greater one."

Now the question comes Miss Clark, what ought I to do? I am now well enough to go back and must go in a month or six weeks from now if I begin next year's work, but in these hard times I do not wish to make extra expense to the Board and if I must leave perhaps I ~~had~~ would better stay away; but there comes the question of my things. I left every thing packed only for the summer and not for shipping. Many of my own and the school things are together and I alone know which is which. For that reason I ought to go back. Then again the Annual Meeting is to be at Ec. I should like to atte

that as I think I have a right to do so. He has an opportunity to go to Constantinople to work so why should he insist on deciding my future as well as his own.
I should be sorry to leave Erzroom with the need so great there but what can I do? As long as Mr C. maintains his present attitude, what can I do?
In deciding to stay another year, I thought I was acting in accordance with the wishes of the Ladies, and in one case I was, with those of Mr. Barton. And in trying to establish a better understanding between myself and the C's I thought I was acting in accordance with Christian principals. I did in accordance with the Golden Rule or any interpretation of it.
In regard to his interference with the school, he says: "I hold myself amenable to the Com. on which you sat. You indicated yourself in favor of the system of co-operation in operation here. You have a right to change your mind which if you do is another reason why we should avoid association If you have any thought of withdrawing Woman's work from that system and dominating it, it should be known for it would change my attitude towards that department of work radically. I am quite willing to work in cooperation and share responsibility If the W.B.M.U. orders the school to be passed over to the entire charge of its special representative then I withdraw from even the responsibility

of giving advice." Cooperation with the native teachers seems to me the right thing, but Mr C's idea of cooperation is not mine. His so far as I can understand it is to make the people do as he says, and it is his will that must be carried out all the way through. I do not approve of Co-operation carried on in this way. But I have had no thoughts of withdrawing Woman's work from the other and am perfectly willing to submit my ~~work~~ plans to the proper persons, and have done so to Mr C. since he has constituted Erzroom station. So here we have differed I have not always yielded, but where the whole committee or even a large majority have differed from me I have submitted to their superior wisdom, if not superior judgement. As long as I submitted cheerfully, I cant see why that was not sufficient. If he were more gentlemanly and courteous in giving his "advice" it would be easier for me, a trained teacher to accept it, and act upon it. I understood I was sent to E. because a trained and experienced teacher was needed, but if I am to merely follow Mr C's dictations, a native teacher could do it as well, and with less expenditure in every way. If Mrs C. is competent to have charge of all of Woman's work as well as the affairs of the entire station, then I can see some reason for his trying to get me out, but according to his own telling there is need of three single ladies in E station, aside from the three married ladies there, and two

gentlemen beside himself. but now when the force is reduced to one family and a single lady, and when I have been obliged to have for a time on acct of sickness. he coolly says "You had better not return". in reply to a letter asking a detailed statement of work. I have done all I can to save this matter from coming before the mission but I suppose there is no help for it.

Pray for me that I may do the right thing. I am studying and doing what I can in language. but it is rather disheartening to study & prepare for work that is to be not yours, or rather that you associates are trying to push you out of. Pray for me. and can not the Ladies move the P.C. to do some thing?

With much love and sympathy for you all in the embarrassing positions you find your selves financially I remain

Very sincerely Yours.

Effie M. Chambers.

Tredizona, June 5, 1895.

Zubizirid Sept. 3. '95.

Dear Dr Barton;

Some time ago I wrote you concerning a grant to cover my disabled mes. You said in reply that the matter would be brought up at Annual Meeting. As that meeting failed and as Govt. affairs seem to get better slowly, there will probably be none this year, I beg that the P.C. will take the steps to obtain the grant for me. Mr Chambers wrote me and I think you also that the station would recommend this grant to be made. I also beg that my salary for the time that I am to remain here be put on a W.F.M. basis as living is more expensive here than in Erzroom, and with the Parsons's heavy expenses already, I do not feel that I should add to them. The keeping of an invalid daughter and a boy in school in America is not easily accomplished on a missionary salary.

I shall have charge of the Kindergarten work here which will consist of a training class, as well as the Kindergarten school. I hope I may be able to do some thing. I find there will be some trouble with my language as I know only Armenian and some of our children here are Greeks, and do not

C. E. SWETT.
REC'D SEP 21 1895

understand Armenian. If I were to be permanently located here I should either learn Turkish or Greek I think. but after my two years - almost - of digging at Armenian, I dread to begin another language. However I am not troubled here yet, so that can wait. Dr Burnham writes me of a vacancy in Siwas where the language is Armenian. And thinks it might be a good place for me if it is necessary for me to make a permanent change. and after thinking it over, I am rather favorably impressed with the idea, if I can not hope to return to E. Miss Brewer who is at S. will go to the Dr. S. this year and on her return wishes to devote herself exclusively to Women's work, so the place vacant would be just what I have in Erzroom. Of course if it is only for awhile, I prefer to remain here, but for permanent work would prefer the interior work I think.

With kind regards to yourself and associates. I am

Very sincerely yours.
Effie Dr. Chambers.

Rec'd Sept. 21.

Very sincerely yours, Effie Mo Chamberlain.

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd 6-11-96

320

Tabigond, May 6. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton,

Dear Friend,

I was very glad to receive your of 8th ~~inst.~~ of Feb. You have no doubt heard ere this of my attempt to resign from the Eastern Turkey Mission, and of the refusal of the Mission or at least Harpoot to take any action in the matter because I resigned without giving reasons. Although I did not state my reasons in my formal resignation, they are well known to Harpoot, especially to Dr Barnum, also to Mr Cole of Bitlis, also Mardis know why I am resigning.

I knew that a statement of my reasons would open up the whole question again and to no purpose. The trouble between Mr Chambers and myself is one that I am sure the Mission will not be willing to examine into and decide on its merits, and I see no use of their making a pretense of doing so. They accepted Mr. Richardson's resignation, but still they say they cannot settle of the merits of the case. If they did not examine into the merits of the

them what hope could I have that they would do so now? So I simply asked them to accept my resignation and grant me enough to clear my debts. Dr Parmelee saw nothing wrong in the course I pursued and was very much surprised at Harpoot's action. I am ready to return but even Harpoot admits that returning is out of the question while Dr Chambers is there. At the same time Harpoot along with the rest of the mission shows no desire to accept any of Dr C's many resignations and thus open the way for my return. Why they do not allow him to resign and accept the place at Constantinople that is waiting for him? As they do not do that, I supposed they would be only too glad to accept my resignation but they did not do that either so the thing is in no better condition than it was before.

The Harpoot friends want me to ask for a transfer to the Western Mission but I ~~will~~ will not do it. Neither will I consider a call from the W. F. M. until my resignation is accepted by the E. F. M. The question stands like this. I am ready to return to Erzroom

and take up my work there again, if there is any possibility of my doing so. I have no desire to be "transferred" anywhere. But if there is no possibility of my returning, then I must ask the Prudential Committee to accept my resignation from the Eastern Mission. I have a right to do one thing or the other.

In regard to your call by the Western Mission, I have one. "When Miss Chambers connection with the E. T. M. is ended she be recommended to accept the invitation to join that station (Tabizond), subjected to the approval of the Prudential Committee." This is the action of the Com. ad Interim reported by Dr. Hurick April 16. So you see the wheels are still blocked. I hope the P. Co. can set things in motion.

Our work here is still pressing heavily upon us. As the relief work is all to be done in addition to the regular work of the station. This is village distribution work (the distributions are fortnightly.) The one for the city occurring last Saturday. Besides money for bread we have given out corn and are still doing so, "bells and kaftans" clothing and yarn yarns. We made over six hundred of these clothes and over seven hundred other garments. Now I am sewing a few garments made to be

hold strictly in reserve for refugees from the Interior who reach us in such a dreadful condition that we must give them some thing, and our supply from Constantinople has all been issued. Besides this I visite the hospital two afternoons in the week with one of my pupil (who is taking kindergarten training) and do what we can in the way of Bible work.

Last Sabbath (May 3.) was Communion. Two new members were received into the church. The chapel was crowded. The question is not of work but of time in which to do the work.

I have been very well this year and my constant attempts at using the language have been very beneficial to me if not to others. I am getting so I understand almost every thing and can carry on a common conversation with little trouble. We are expecting the friends from Bitlis soon, and we hear that the party from Harpoot are about setting out. Dr Reynolds of Van writes that it will be impossible for them to stay there permanently unless a change comes, right speedily. For Dr Knapp. The people are "hoorsah-hod", and I don't wonder that they are so. With highest regards to all I remain,

Yours, very truly
Reid May 23.

J. L. B.
Ed'd 11 96
Ans'd

Dear Dr. Barton, Dubuque May 23. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Yours of May 1st received yesterday and finds us in the same uncertain unsettled condition in regard to the future that we have been in for so long. How things can continue as they are now it is impossible to conceive from a human standpoint but when and after what manner will be the change and will it be better or make worse? The condition of these poor wretched people is a question that is weighing heavily on the hearts of us all. Our busy busy lives do not lean us much time for speculation and it is well that it is so. We can not alter the ~~question~~ situation in the least except by constant supplication to our Heavenly Father, in behalf of these poor people that they may be spared from any thing more, and a constant exhortation to them to be patient and trust in God.

I have not much hope of any action from the E. T. M. in regard to my case, so I am

Dr Chas. I. Scofield
Dr Wm Rochester
Dr Wm Cochran
Dr Wm Cochran
Dr Wm Cochran

not able to settle down very quietly. It seems to one under the circumstances, that the P.B. might be allowed to act without waiting for the action of the Mission. This waiting is harder than relief work, or the unsettled state of the work in general. I can never believe it was best for me to leave Erzroom and I leave as Miss Knapp will leave Trebizond if he goes, under compulsion not because it is just and right but because Mr Chambers is able to overrule the E.T.M. notwithstanding their disapproval of his course. Let there be no misunderstanding or misconception as to why I go, in the minds of the Committee. I go not because I have any desire to leave Erzroom, but simply because Mr Chambers has driven me out and still persists in keeping me out without regard to right or justice. He writes me when I wish to return that the estimates are cut off for Woman's work urging that as a reason why I should not return but at the same time, though the estimates are cut off (?) he invites Miss Knapp to stay there and carry on my work. Any one is foolish

who can not understands his schemes. He knows that so long as I am there he can not manipulate the Women's Board money as he wishes without a protest and without the ladies knowing it, That is the reason he has forced me to leave. But why the Mission have calmly sat still and allowed it is more than I can tell. But I suppose I need not seek a reason, it is enough that it is so, only whatever is to be done let it be done quickly That I may begin to forget. It will be a hard enough task at best, but the sooner I am able to set about it the better for me and the work.

Some months ago Mrs Clarke wrote me that the Ladies had voted me $50. per year extra during my stay here, as my expenses have been much increased and I cannot meet them on an E. S. M. salary. Has the matter been finished, and am I at liberty to consider my self entitled to draw the extra $50. or is there still arrangements to be made? There is another thing also. My $75 dollars for out fit money, that I was entitled

to draw for my house keeping outfit and which Mr Higgins wrote me that if I remained in Turkey would be placed to my credit, will be very necessary for me if I make this change as I shall have to fit up a sitting room - buy a clock and several other things which I should not have needed had I remained in Erzroom. But while there I purchased house keeping things to the extent of £5 (T.) many of which cannot be brought on here and will have to be bought again here. What action will the Committee take in the matter?

We are expecting the Bithis party soon. Dr Parmelee hopes to leave by the 14th of June for America and perhaps except the party from B. The Crawfords will be gone during this season.

The Richardsons seem to feel that there is still hope of their returning to Turkey should things quiet down so work can go on. Is there such a hope? I am in charge of their things left in Erzroom and as I am having them myself would like to make some arrangement

Rev. Royal M. Cole

322 — 517

Amherst, Mass. Jan 28/90

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith

I do not yet hear from Dr. Raynolds as to the vote that seems to have failed to enter the minutes of our Mission meeting at Erzroom respecting Mr. G. P. Knapp. As I believe I note you, usual favorable action was taken, as Dr. R. reported to our friends at Pittsfield on his return, as I understand it. You may have heard by this time through Mr. Barton, the stated clerk, or some one else by this time. Mr. Knapp writes me he has sent in his application, which we am sure will have fair and appropriate consideration by the Com^ee, and on trial also will be favorable to the great needs of the active working force of our Pittsfield circle.

I am sorry to say that no progress seems made towards purchase of the Koordo property that it was hoped might be converted into a missionary residence after considerable repairs. The old boy apparently understands that we have an eye on the purchase, so we have

to give more time for him to sort of approach us lest, from our eagerness, the price be most exorbitant as a result.

In such a city, where it is next to impossible to rent any premises at all suitable for missionary occupation I dont know just what we are to do, especially now that a third family is, as we hope, to join us. For a year or so possibly the Knapps first and Knapps second could occupy the former's premises, if that long drawn-out law suit does n't turn them out. The place we have occupied since the K's return from U. S. is the parsonage of the church, but now it has only two rooms, since the earthquake drove us out of the 10 x 12 bedroom. Hence what serves for my study must also do for my guest room as well as family sleeping apartment, by means of a curtained off corner in it. Which the other room has to fill the rest of the bill - a parlor, sitting room, nursery, dining room, &c. It really begins to be a problem with us just what we are to do with ourselves and four children, the largest of whom will be over 10 years of age. He and his sister 2½ years younger, are enjoying such delightsome freedom

here, and take such pleasure in their school, it is not going to make it any easier for them to be thus shut in for house room with a narrow yard outside and no much-needed school for them to go to. We looked over the city carefully before taking these quarters and could do no better.
Two or three questions have arisen in my mind and I am going to throw them out for you to think of some spare moment till I may call in on you not many days hence.
1. Is it best to think of leaving one, if not two, of our children at Auburndale, if they would take them so very young?
2. Or would it be well to think of leaving my family here, where the children could have advantage of sch. till, perhaps, two of them might be left, meanwhile in the few years of my lonely co-journ we might make ready better quarters for the accommodation of the family.
3. Or would it be worth while to think of our passing another winter here together, whereupon we could leave our boy, who would be over eleven. With the young Knapps going out the coming season the hands of our associates would be strengthened, progress might be made, perhaps, in

securing that property, meanwhile Mrs. C. and I could, perhaps, turn to account among the churches this way, where our services seem somewhat in demand.

I throw out these sort of interrogative seed-thoughts against the time we may meet.

Like so many in this dear other lands we, too, have had our turn at la grippe, though are out of it now and in our usual health again as a family. Mrs. Cole has just returned from New London and Norwich at both of which places the good ladies of the Ct. Branch of W. B. M. seemed much interested in what she had to say of our experiences & work.

Yours very truly,

D. M. Cole.

Amherst, Mass. Feb. 10 1890

Amherst, Mass. Feb. 11th, '90

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

I was sorry not to see you in Boston the other day and even now this note may not find you back from the West in the Rooms. I write more especially to refer again to that $200. I also write Mr. Ward enclosing a note of Treas. Dr. Pettibone of C. to Mr. Knapp informing the latter as late as Dec 17th that he had nothing in hand for the purchase. Doubtless Mr. Ward will see that the matter is set right so the money shall be held at Constl ready, in case Mr. Knapp should effect the purchase. I passed a very pleasant Sab. with Rev. Mr. Patrick at West Newton, speaking to his interesting and appreciative people morning and evening, and this last Sab. I was at the Cong'l ch. at Florence a part of Northampton also addressing them noon and evening. In both places the regular offering for our Board was made. In neither place, however, did they say anything about my expenses.

As it was the day of their regular contribution to our Board, of course nothing of that sort could have been done, and considering that these two appointments were brought about at the suggestion of the field Secy Dr. Creegan I was thinking perhaps it might be provided for by the Treasury as per what you once wrote me as to expenses being met only when missionaries are called upon for such work from the Rooms.

Rec'd Feb. 13

Concord, Feb. 11, 1890

The good ladies of the W. B. M. see well that parties going out for such service are provided for. I believe Miss Wright's fare was paid all the way out west, she proposing to go to attend the Kansas meetings if they would pay her expenses.

I was thinking I should like to go out as far as Minn. at least, the coming spring, if I could do some such work as to enable me to pay ticket out and back.—We are kept pretty busy this way, both of us, especially Sabs. Mrs. C. has two appointments ahead now.

I was interested in learning from Dr. Strong and Dr. Alden that Mr. G. P. Knapp had been appointed. I have written him congratulations.

Yours very truly

R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole. 324 S.

Amherst, Mass. Feb. 15/90

Rec'd Feb 18

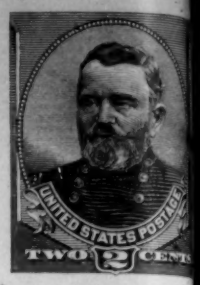
Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Yours, under date of 3rd inst, just now at hand. I take it for granted a letter of mine under an earlier date than the one you acknowledge in this, had come before you though you do not refer to it. In that I spoke of three points respecting our return to B. that I had thought of (1) As to whether we had better leave our boy of 10 years at the "Home" Auburndale (2) Or I go back without my family altogether for a few years in hopes that a place for a home then might be made ready or (3) Would it be worth while to think of our spending another winter here as G. P. Knapp's are going on when there would be more hope of that promotion being

IF NOT CALLED FOR
IN TEN DAYS
POSTMASTER WILL PLEASE
RETURN TO

UNITED STATES
LETTER SHEET
ENVELOPE.



Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.
Foreign Secy A. B. C. F. M.
No 1 Somerset St
Boston, Mass

U. S. PATENT, JULY 1, 1879.

BOSTON
FEB 18 90
1 AM
C

Amherst, Mass. Feb. 20. 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Replying to yours of the 18th inst. I would say that we, too, feel how very desirable it is that a missionary return with his family; and yet exigency in circumstances may come in, perhaps, now & then, when an exception is admissible. There are quite serious objections to leaving our son here at 10 years, as we feel most keenly.

But to take them back to our former quarters with its two rooms, (as I have described in a past letter, is pretty hard. For Mrs. C. and myself we could get along, and should not trouble you by writing about quarters any way; but with these four children we must keep up something like a school for them in our own house, but where can it be with only two rooms, is the question. Before going on to Bitlis as a family we were separated 1 year, I holding on in Erzingan (6 months not speaking Eng. with a fellow countryman) while my family were in Harpoot, whither I took them for the sake of their health. But if we

are able to speak from experience, do not think for once that we consider such separation desirable, it is done for His sake - when there seems no other way. As field missionary I should need to be outside of Bitlis City not a little during the year, and then away from my home, though not like their being so far away as the U. S., of course. My thought was that my family might hold right on here in Amherst where they would have for a sort of head to the household our tall son Fred, who is in College for three years to come, if he lives & all prospers. The other children also could have the benefit of school, Mrs. C. and they all - of society instead of their being shut in under such circumstances at B. myself taken much away from the home even there, and Mrs. C. largely shut up to care of the children, educating them, &c under such trying odds.

And yet I have to admit that this last part, that seems to me would come so hard on Mrs. C. she does not look at, and she cannot seem to bring her judgement to accept the idea of the separation I have been speaking of, which to your mind may be almost as decisive against the whole thing as the first of the judge's 12 reasons!

If we passed another year in this country we should expect to leave our boy Frank, who would be in his 11th year.

Mr. G. P. Knapp will expect to live with his parents for a little time I suppose though I do not know particularly as to their plans. Considering what their quarters are, if the lawsuit clears away so they hold it, it cannot serve them long, and even now it will be somewhat trying to the new wife and housekeeper, coming as she does fresh from the land of such different surroundings.

I am very glad to learn from Mr. Ward that the Com^e voted £300. in place of the £200, as I requested. I hope very much the property may be got held of for that, and perhaps a little may be held over for repairs, for as it is it would not be fit for missionary occupation.

As to the danger that 'detriment might come to the work' in case we were not to go along with the young Knapps I am not sure, though should hope not. Still we have no desire to prolong our stay in this land and away from our post if there can be clear indication as to where duty leads, pleasant as it is to be among the churches.

Over Yours very truly R. M. Cole. Over

P. S. A letter from Dr. Raynolds of Van indicates he is much discouraged, more especially in view of the probably future, since Mrs. R. cannot live on there. I fear we shall lose him & our mission since he thinks his wife needs the sea level. He writes me he has applied to you for a second man to be appointed for Van, and in this postscript let me assure you that I for one fully concur in such, and believe there would be work enough even if Dr. R. should remain on by giving full attention to developing a work in the outside field, as well as carrying on the medical work in the city.

I presume you will hardly feel to submit the question of a third man for Van to the Com^ee till a vote from the mission has been taken on the matter, or I would suggest that Mr. McCallum of Yale Seminary for a candidate, as he seems inclined to Turkey.

I, too, regretted not seeing you, as there are not a few things we could talked over with much more satisfaction than to attempt to go over them with the pen.

R. M. C.

Constant, Feb. 20, 1890

Recd. Feb. 24

churches bail Sun.
Rev. as I mili-
ana to is absent
Mrs Gladis of N.
& B. M. of this
Country here
in Amherst.
Cordially yours
B. W. Coe.

Amherst, Mass. March 5/90

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith.

You spoke in your last letter dated 18th ult. as though you might give final suggestions as to whether I had better think of going back alone or staying over another winter after you have heard from me in answer to a few questions you put. I answer the questions, but suppose you have been too busy to refer to the matter again up to this time. I would not refer to it now, and we might let the whole question rest in abeyance only that if we are to stay on for another winter, considering the fact that our son is in College here perhaps we had better make our home here, and the time to rent tenements is passing.

Considering the needs of the work perhaps we had better push back to our charge in Bitlis field, notwithstanding

the close quarters. Even if the purchase of this property is very successful we should hardly be able to get it in hand and put it into shape for a residence for less than a year to come. By the way, it might be well for you to write just a word of endorsement or explanation of the fact that we are authorized by our Mission and you at B. to solicit some funds to fit up a missionary residence (of course not counting it is for us when we could not beg so well) taking it for granted the £300 will be enough to purchase that property.

We shall not think of purchasing all of the rather extensive fields connected with the premises, and hence a wall to separate from the field where he has talked of building, would be needed, as also not a little by way of repairing the very old house. If we are to go back this Summer however, we shall not be able to do much in special lines. I was at Easthampton speaking to a union service of the two Cong.l

Amherst, Mass.
Rec'd March 5, 1890.

Amherst, Mass.
Feb. 8 / 75.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Thanks for yours of the 7th inst. Yes, we are quite willing to decide the matter as to whether we should stay on another winter or not, if that be best for us, and we had no thought of troubling you or the Com^ee as to it only in a previous letter you asked some questions the answers to which you wished before you gave "final suggestions" on the matter. All things considered it seems to us better, perhaps, to pass another winter, perhaps going back rather earlier next season, meanwhile that property may be in hand by that time so a residence be made ready. I am remitting to Mr Ward the first instalment for help on Repairs of Mission house at Britis. a $10. given by a Mrs. Wright, widow of the late Dr. Edwin S. Wright of this place, a rare man as she is woman of ordinary means I judge as clergymen's widow

P.S. We are to dine to-day at Judson Smith's. Sunday morning we shall be at Amherst to-morrow. Yours truly
R. H. L.

wines are likely to be. The words accompanying the money were "A small gift towards the sum needed for the repairs on the house in Bitti's but carrying with it much love and sympathy".

My thought was that this sum might at once be acknowledged in the Herald for its particular object as the item might tend to call out other contributions for this object. It is evident all of the £300 voted will go for first purchase if even the friends can get it for that, but a wall needs to be put up along the line, and the old building will need not a little overhauling to make it substantial, and fit for a residence.

But I think I will soon write a brief statement for Dr. Strong to insert in Herald if he deems best on this matter referring to this seedling of $10. Also has just been handed in by a minister's widow. – I had a delightful Sab. at Medway last Sab. speaking morning and evening – Yours hastily

R. M. Cole

Finchard, Mass. Feb 21. 1890.

Rec'd March 3rd.

Rev. Thomas is
a helpful (we allowing
him $10 a month)
or mis. fa. and
could not go
among the churches
as much
as we do.
R. M. S.

Amherst Mass.
June 10. 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Sometime along
back you spoke in a letter
as to our financial matters
that we must let you know
if we could get along on what
was allowed or something to that
effect. In any case I am in-
clined to drop you a personal
note on this matter, though I
do not like so to do.

We are seven, and our son
is in College which, for expense,
is not what it was in your and
my day. It costs nearly $50. the year to
keep our other children in one of

the schools near that has more
moderate charge for tuition than
some of them, especially Kindersley
Amherst is an expensive place to
live in, more so than it used
to be, as we are told.
Rent to get all accommodation
so we can have our son with
us (the great object we had in locating
here) costs $175. for the year.
We have practiced economy in many
ways. By co-operation in the form
and yankee ingenuity little laundry
work goes outside, shoe-tapping for
the seven pairs of feet, and light
jobs that our tinman's tools can
remedy are turned off at home.
Still with our $175. rent
and son's expenses in College
together with tuition it is dif

hicult to get along on our
allowance even though some
small sums given by friends
& other things than regular
expenses, have been immerged
in it.
If we might have help on our
house rent I should hope we
might get along, and support
our children in school, though
to one in College does not have
the allowance from the Board
we had before we reached the
country.
I want very much to attend
the Inter-Missionary Union
meeting at Clifton Springs, and
think some of starting out to
do to-morrow. Mrs. Cole
has gone to work for the W. B. ladies

Rev. R. M. Cole.
Amherst, June 10, 1890 5
Rec'd June 12

at their meeting in Rochester near Fall River. Expect she will return day after to-morrow. We try not to both be away at the same time, but we are going and coming so much exceptional will occur. It is pleasant to meet with these churches and see their interest in the cause of the Master in the East.

Excuse my personal talk with you on our financial matters. I shall not return till next week Wedy or Thursday, if I go to Clifton meeting.

Yours very truly
R. M. Cole

P. S. I might have said that the young man, member of our Bible Y. M. C. A. that traveled with me in Turkey has w

Mrs. S. M. Cole.
Amherst Mass 329
June 14 - 1890
Rec'd June 18.

Rev Judson Smith D. D.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of
me 10th arrived yesterday - Mr Cole
at the International Missy Meeting
t Clifton Springs, consequently
e answer to your very kind
considerate letter will be somewhat
layed - Amherst certainly is
t a cheap place to live, but
ere are many privileges here which
e prize, and we are able to keep
edo expenses at a much lower figure
he can how board, room and etc
th us - We hoped & have tried hard
keep within the allowance limit,
pring to carry the rent - & all without
ne aid as I presume my
sband told you in his letter
itten when I was at Rochester -
t have been unable to do so -
person whose opinion is highly
e said to me the other day "Mr Cole
do more good this year in America
in Britain, in arousing more interest
Missions among the men of our
ngregations" - He seems willingly neglects

SERIES 4.

IF NOT CALLED FOR IN TEN DAYS POSTMASTER WILL PLEASE RETURN TO

Rev Judson Smith D.D.
Congregational House
No 1 Somerset St,
Boston Mass.

U. S. PATENT, JULY 1, 1879.

Dear Sir, Yesterday afternoon I received your letter of June 23rd, & have given it my most careful consideration in connection with the Committee of Arrangements of the Congregational Council, & have decided that it is not advisable to place the Council on record as favoring the proposed Congress of Religions.

Very truly yours,
C. H. Kelsey

Amherst, Mass. June 28/90

Rev. Judson Smith D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Your kind letter referring to our finances came to hand. We have to admit that we have fallen behind having used up some sums in the nature of a loan - $200 or more - But not to look backward to what has passed we would say that if it could now be made $.13^00 we should hope to cover all including the $175^00 house rent and our sons expenses till we leave next year.

We are sorry to make even this suggestion considering the heavy demands on the treasury and by close economy have tried to avoid it thus long. Excuse great haste as I am just off for Sol. work at Worcester.

Yours very truly

R. M. Cole

P. S. Disappointed in not seeing you here at Cont. but glad to meet Dr. Alden.

R. M. C.

Amherst, June 28, 1890.

Rec'd June 30.

Amherst, Mass. July 4. 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Your late letter announcing the approval of the $1300. I spoke of as what I trusted we should be able to get along on for the next year, came to hand; and now comes that of yesterday's date respecting funds additional to the 300 liras voted already for Bitti's building. Be assured we are very grateful to the Com^ee for so kindly allowing us more personal aid, and with this amt. we feel quite confident of getting along. Not less grateful were we for the generous proposal you make respecting needed additional funds for the Bitti's house purchase. We confess this action on your part will relieve us both of some care in this matter, though we fear the property is not to be had for any such amount as we at first counted on, unless we move very slowly in it, as is the method of procedure of things in Turkey. Mr. Knapp now writes me that the Kouch says he shall not even sell it for £450 just as it is, and the native, acting on the part of Mr. K., offered him at once 275, rather too much perhaps to

have started it on. I at once told Br. K. that I did n't believe in paying any more than the property was worth when purchased with others' money. Apparently the beg has comprehended the situation, thinks we are bound to have it, and so he puts up his price. I told Bro. K. I thought we could afford to wait, and let the old fellow sweat, as other parties would not buy it at any such high price, and he is in such circumstances he must sell, since he has begun to build out of the city on a field he has, and he needs the money which his old house, if neglected, will tumble down. As it now stands we are unable to say just how much additional will be needed, though they now report that most of the old buildings will have to be torn down, the material of which will go for the high wall to enclose the premises, which a large house, sufficient, perhaps, to accommodate the Young Knapps and ourselves, be put up in their place. If such were to be the outlook I am afraid 7-800 liras might be called for in the end. However, it is quite impossible to tell what turn it will take. Not a few of the Mission will be passing through B. to the ann. meeting in Van this month so Mr. K. will have full advice on the matter. I am writing him as to the nature of your letter, and am sure he and all our circle will be much encouraged thereby.

Sincerely Yours R. M. Cole

Trabzon, July 4, 1890.
Rec'd July 18.

Amherst, Mass. July 14, 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

In noting our gratitude for the assurance you kindly gave us as to the Bitlis Mission residence matter, I forgot to say that now parties have become interested in the question likely other sums would come in for this object. $12 $\frac{78}{100}$ has just come to hand, which I now remit to Treas. Hand, and with your approval we shall not feel called upon to check any further such manifestations, believing as we do that such will, in reality, be so much additional aid to the Treasury, while it has the same result for our building, but carries along more interest for our work on the part of the contributors. We have been careful to direct that it be so arranged as not to detract from the general Treasury, and has come mostly from ladies and their societies that Mrs. Cole has interested in the matter in connection with her addresses here and there, which my work is more with the general Congregations among the churches, and with the result, it is to be hoped, of increase in the regular contributions.

But I want, with your permission, to refer in this letter to trouble, which, we hear, has come up at Trebizond.

all the more perhaps because Mrs. C. and I ought to be considered as knowing well the T. people as also Dr. and Mrs. Parmelee with whom we were so long associated at Erzroom. But bear in mind that what I say I do on my own responsibility only in consultation with Mrs. Cole, we having nothing from Dr. Parmelee's pen since matters took such a serious turn before the W. T. mission meeting, though we have heard of it through others.

I feel inclined at the outset to express my surprise, knowing the parties at T. so well as we do and understanding that half or more of the church at T. had not put names to the appeal sent in against Dr. P. to the W. T. Mission meeting, that the latter should have openly endorsed it and thus virtually allow only a party in the Trebd Congregation to condemn the Boards missionary, and thus secure his utter removal from the whole Station field, and that, too, when Ordon by far the strongest and the most important part is well known to be opposed to this faction, most of all its leader - the Trebd pastor - and will be likely to protest against Dr. P's being sent away from the field in this way.

I dont know what palliating circumstances the brethren at C. found, but certainly such open avowal of a petty party's cause in a scurvy little people that has been chiefly noted for party spirit and quarreling among

themselves for the 21 years we have been in that land, seems unprecedented, and may prove a serious matter if continued. It seems much like a missionary's being amenable to a native bar that at best only represents a small faction in a little people, all because he is thought not to favor them so much as a larger party!
Dr. Parmelee incurred the ill will & vengeful feeling of a prominent family in the congregation because he prevented their purloining the large and valuable chapel property under the lead of their father, a dishonest sharper that had fore-figured, ostensibly at one sitting (as pen & ink would indicate) such a formidable acct. as was to demand the passing over of the whole concern with a debt to rest on the people besides! There are no vouchers for any charges, he apparently having destroyed all such, while, as per his own figuring, expenses he claimed to have been to which nominal pastor, were at such high prices as to be out of all proportion, and the whole acct. was condemned even at that some cents as not valid.
As Mr. Parmelee was in T. at the time and as he was on the ground and knew the past history of the property, as a station at Em he delegated him

to unravel the matter which he did most patiently and efficiently, but being the leader, though fully endorsed by Mr. Price & myself, he naturally was specially marked by all the family. It is noticeable that the appeal party, save the pastor, almost to a man, so far as I know, are connected in some way with said family, and should, I submit, go only for what it is worth taken in connection with old prejudices left festering in their minds because said property did not pass into their hands. But I need not weary you with details of this matter which must have taken no little space in the letter-file of Dr. Clark at the time, and if the good man's memory serves him well he can even at this distance of time call to mind quite enough of the unpleasant matter.

But in view of the N. Y. action we are thinking that if as a committee you were to endorse it you might be embarrassed as to the future for the Parmelies, in thus summarily removing them from the Trebl field as well as that city, and I am tempted to throw out a seed-thought for your consideration.

Why not let Dr. Raynolds and Dr Parmelee swap places, since, as the former writes us, he feels the state of his wife's health demands

that he be on the coast, if he stay in the country, Dr. Parmelee is a physician and knows the Turkish language, and would be able to fill Dr. R's place in all respects at least till the new missionary got into working order, meanwhile Dr. R. could come down to the coast where he could have his wife with him once more.

Let me bear testimony to Dr. Parmelee's good, conscientious management of the Board's funds so far as I have seen in the past. Some might say he did not manage well in building the new missionary residence at Y., but he was drawn into that from his great desire to make ready for the much needed associate.

If, however, you do not veto Cornish action and yet feel they should not go to Van temporarily even, how would it do to let them go back to their old field in Erzroom, where the people hold them in high esteem. It might be that in the end you would consider the question of his permanency there, while Mr. R. & Chambers go to Trebd. since Mrs. Chambers' doctor thinks she should not risk the primitive style of journeying in the interior though she might locate on the coast. I happen to know from a quite recent talk

with R. C. that he was willing to go to S. to be associated with Dr. P. and surely he could not object to being there alone, and so much desires an opening somewhere on the coast. He was quite willing I should write Dr. P. as to his readiness to come there, but since this new development I am venturing the opinion of myself that he would go there alone.
Certainly with both R. C. and his brother away from Erzeroum they are to be rather weak for a time at least.
Thus you see I have taken the liberty of submitting these thoughts for your consideration, and I hope you will not consider me officious.
We are in usual health & kept busy. Shall probably go up to our friends in N.H. & Vt for a time in many weeks. With kind regards from us all

Yours very truly

R. M. Cole.

Amherst, July 14, '90.
Filed July 16.
Enclosure

Amherst, July 16th 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Just now comes a somewhat lengthy letter from Mrs. Parmelee as to the T. trouble of I referred to day before yesterday in writing you. But I do not propose to quote from this letter, more especially as like you may have something of similar import, though I do wish to suggest that from what she inclosed from the Erdon pastor's pen that I spoke of as probable from the E. quarter is taking form sooner than I expected. I know the E. pastor from of old, and think him quite different from the one at Zreb.d who at best has barely turned aside to tarry there, though already on his way to America. Men facing away from their country and people, especially if teachers, are likely to have a screw loose somewhere, as past experience has too often shown. A second point, which I also touched on, now is all the more evident, viz. that this trouble of three families (one of which is preacher's) against 160 others in the field as such, as the pastor puts it, has its roots in the chapel property act. matter. One of that family

Rev. R. Ag. Colle.
Amherst, July 16, 1890.
Rec'd July 17.

has been on to Corsik and in most unmanly ways worked up an oriental case that obviously drew sympathy from certain native agents there who draw the fat salaries from the Board, and one gun killing foreign funds should be passed over in this case, though to secure such Dr. Parmelee better be out of the field. No this is what the future will make more evident I am quite confident, if Dr. P. is to be treated as the full extent of the C. action would demand - that old accr. matter will be forced to the front again.

Of course it does not become me to suggest even, but likely if you should decide to carry out the C. action in part, you might conclude to let the Parmelees carry out a plan I think they had any way of going to Ordou for a sojourn at least till, perhaps, the storm at T. be overpast. ⊗

Excuse this sort of postscript to my other letter, which has been prompted on receiving to-days letter enclosing words from pastor Hagopos of Ordou. As ever.

Cordially Yours R. M. Cole

Amherst, Mass. July 19/90

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Replying to your note of the 17th inst. just now at hand, I am inclined to take the responsibility of loaning you Mrs. Parmelee's letter you refer to, though not to pass to other hands of course, and for "particulars as to Ordou pastor" I incorporate here a free translation of the two letters she sent on, both of which seem to have been written before he knew of the Consul's action.

Ordou, May 20/90

....(omitting introductory &c) "Garabed Havajinian" (chief man of the family offended by the chapel acct. as I wrote you, Feb) "came ashore Sunday" (on his way to Consul where he was going to work up this case, Feb) "was filled with anger against you, as if he considered you a party with Zenope Effendi" (civil head of the Protestants of the whole T. field, whom he wants cast out of office, from an old family quarrel, Feb) "but it was very evident to me he was mistaken, though he would not be persuaded. He wants you cast out of T. and Zenope punished. — Would we had ar-

ranged before hand so I could gone on to Consis, when I could given needed information on this matter. There are in this station field 160 Prot. houses" (one house may include several families) "and they all are very grateful to you for your labor, success and fatherly love which surprises all save those three houses. It is easy to understand the secret with those houses. Garabed Hovagimian showed you were the harmful one, and it is not strange he says so since you do not allow them to "turn their cupboard" in the name of the church" (or feather their pockets, we should say, from the chapel)

Signed - Hagopos Der Kalousdian
(Pastor Erdon Prot. church)
Erdon, June 4/90

He again refers to this matter that is to come before the Consis meeting - - - "If they wish to understand the matter what you and we can say is enough, and we are confident that God, through you, will make them understand the truth, or at least let them condescend to ask and learn testimony from the 7-800 Protestants in our field. - They should know that whatever right they may have to pass judgement still more have we and our churches" (there are two in Erdon city alone) "who from nearness and

personal contact, are informed".
"Your innocency in this matter is as clear as the sun light. I, like you, do not approve the course Zenope Ef. took" (in shutting the pastor out of the pulpit, I think he means, Cecil) "and yet why blame you for it when Z. himself declares that he and the people did it without your even knowing of it." - - - (Salutations &c)

Signed - Hogopos Der Kalousdian
(Pastor C. Prot. Church)

Now returning to my pen I am going to say, as I understand the question to C. action. So far from not being Congregational it does not even reach the Presbyterian system if they are to pass on a whole people of a field when only one of a petty party of one city is present who gives clearest evidence, as per the C. pastor above, that he is actuated by all prejudices. He and one other behaved so badly when Mr. Dwight was up to T. as delegate that the latter said "they seemed actuated by the spirit of the devil"! as Mrs. Parmelee says in another letter that come only a few days before the one I enclose, and from which may I not make a few extracts besides. Mrs. P. says "Cecil only wish has been to spend and be spent for the good of the Armenian

nation." "Sivas" (field I suppose) has 800 Protestants and is allowed a missionary, and should not this with 700 have one. One Trebd brother says "We dont wish the Bithynia Union to mix in our matters." And really this station field is not by organization under their charge and why should the native agency have so much to say of this extraterritorial matter. The T. pastor has been at fault in becoming a tool in the hands of these men, while he does not, of himself, seem actuated by the right spirit at all. Mrs. Parmelee again says "let the mission have centered us for our mistakes, and told the native pastors they had done so rather than say they do not yet recommend that we leave the place".

But presuming what you care most for is the expression from the Erdem pastor on the matter I send that on, together with this letter of Mrs. P.'s, which you may please return.

I want also to enclose a letter to Mrs. Cole from Christian Endeavor L. E. Clark's mother, to glance at, that you may see that, as I said in the other letter, it is not well to check these streamlets that are coming in, as they not only will bring more money to the Treasury in the end, but also goodly cheer in the missives accompanying them, many of which I am out again & morrow to Sabanja

Mrs. E. has especially kept Mrs. Clark & Jennie for Missions.

Amherst Sept. 13/90

335

Dear Dr. Clark:

Many thanks for your kind thought in yours of 10th just at hand. I have no winter overcoat, having got along with a thin one last winter. My son Fred in Amherst College, who stands just my height, has no thin one. So if you should see fit to pass either along it would be likely to be in order, and especially the heavy one. You do quite right to defer to my senior in the service, of course. Mrs. C. and myself are kept pretty busy among the churches. Are just back from a co-journ of few weeks among friends up in N. H. when again, I was occupied on the Sab.

Rev. R. M. Cole
Amherst Sept 13 1890
Received Sept 15

R. M. Cole
Amherst, Mass.

SERIES
IF NOT CALLED FOR IN TEN DAYS POSTMASTER WILL PLEASE RETURN TO

UNITED STATES
LETTER SHEET
ENVELOPE.

U. S. PATENT, JULY 1, 1879.

Rev. N. G. Clark D.D.
1 Somerset St.
Boston, Mass.

Eastern Turkey
Mission.

BOSTON
SEP 14
1 AM
A

Dr. N. G. Clark
Secretary Eastern Turkey Mission
1 Somerset St.
Boston, Mass.
Sending from
Prof. R. M. Cole
Amherst Mass.

Amherst, Oct. 20th 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

I send herewith the Estimates of our Bitlis Station, which only came to my hands after you must have left for the Minneapolis. I am sorry that Bro. Knapp did not send in earlier, as you must have needed them before you are going to the meeting. I hasten it on now about as it came to my hands, trusting it may not be altogether too late even now. Though he has put nothing on as contingent (and it all is very important) yet if it should so turn that you felt obliged to cut off something, and it were to come back to me I should say among the important items there might be those of first and second degree.

Though we couldn't be present at your meeting in Minneapolis, yet we have followed it with a somewhat anxious interest, hoping good may come from actions taken there notwithstanding.

We did have some hope you might, perhaps, find time to drop in and see us as a family here, more especially as we learned through Mrs. Woodin of China Mission that you would probably be here till Tuesday. But you are busy no doubt for the interests of our Alma Mater that is about coming into possession of the new president. We have been very busy of late for the cause of missions doing what we could. Pass out daily during the Rally week and have been out some. Mrs. C. also has filled four appointments of late the two last one in New Haven & Middletown this past week.

With a readiness to answer questions as to Estimates should any arise,

I am very truly

R. M. Cole

Amherst, Mass, Oct. 20, 1890.
Recd Oct. 22

Amherst, Nov. 5th 1890

Dear Dr. Clark;

I was hoping to have the inspiration of your face in the Convention at Woodstock N.H. the other day, as your name was on the programme of the meeting. I heard, however, that your son was not so well, which was a reason for your not coming of course. Permit Mrs. Cole and myself to extend our sympathy to you & Mrs. Clark at this time. May it please the dear Lord to raise up a sick one yet! He have a tall boy, going in and out before us during this his second year in College, which makes us feel even a tenderer sympathy as looking to other sons.

By the way, I am not quite sure whether I wrote you on arrival of that splendid overcoat that you kindly sent me. I had in mind to do so, but as I was out here and there among the churches every day I could do so little writing then I fear I neglected to do so. Be assured it was a most timely remittal and fits me nicely. Had you not spoken as though

it had been worn a little I should hardly have mistrusted it. It saves me quite a mighty purchase, and fits me up all the better to do what I try to for increasing the interest in the master's work in our part of Turkey. Please communicate to whom it may concern my most sincere thanks for the coat.

We are all in usual health, enjoying our stay in such a delightful place as Amherst where we sort of play keeping house. And yet our hearts go out towards our co-workers in Turkey and the dear peoples that are our charge. "Want to go back to Turkey under these circumstances?" Ask your pastor at the close of his vacation if he wants to go back to this people, are some such words as we are called to deal out to kindly sympathizing people in this land that have not grown wild such a lively interest in those Asiatics. Mrs. C. would join me in kindest regards & sympathy for you & yours. Very tru

R. M. Cole

R. M. Cole

Amherst, Jan. 19. 1891

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

The old year has closed, and we are well entered upon another, still I have not given a formal report of ourselves. We keep pretty busy, including outside calls, as well as duties at home. We are delighted to see the increased interest on missions among the churches, and yet our hearts are saddened at the lack of funds, which necessitates so much retrenchment as comes reported to us officially to-day in the circular letter to the brotherhood, over the 12 signatures of the committee. It is made up of kind, sympathetic words indeed, but the meaning and dire result are only too evident. Just what has been done to E. & M. estimates and those of Bible especially I am not informed; but presumably the inexorable pen has passed over them also, for we cannot expect to be left out. Our thoughts, however, turn to teachers and preachers, some of whom may have to be set adrift for want of the salary pittance of our field needed to keep them going; and we think

how disheartend they and their people will be at this taking up of work only to have to drop it again. Such a process is sure to break confidence with young men who are about entering this rich harvest of souls. The people are too poor to pay even what we put upon them, but they had supposed the Board was to be trusted, and how are we to let them know the situation! Three four promising young men have just completed their course at Harpoot Theol. Semy, married graduates of the Bitlis Girls High School, and entered upon their work as preachers with high hopes, one of them in Mousch, a city of some 15,000 inhabitants and itself in a wonderful center. But what must be the effect upon such ones when in our Co-operative meeting this spring the cloth is spread out from which all the garments must be made! We shrink from such a revelation, and can but hope that if the living do not prove equal to the emergency posthumous contributions will come to the rescue, for it is "better late than never."

You may be interested in knowing that

this delay of another winter in the country, has introduced us to new and quite unexpected sad-pleasure among our family friends. Twice in a short five weeks have messages been flashed to us over the wires from northern N. H. and Vt. that death was imminent, the first for my aged father of 83½ years, and second, my brother in law Rev. B. S. Adams, pastor of Cong'l church at East St. Johnsbury, Vt. only 54 years old. Quick as are the electricity and steam cars in this wonderful land, they did not bring me in till the spirits had taken their flight. But the sadness was ameliorated somewhat that we could participate in the last sad rites instead of being on the other side of the globe as has been the case in such other afflictions. But naturally our faces are towards home and the dear work in Turkey for the coming season. I am sorry to say little or no progress had been made towards the purchase of that property that we hoped to convert into some sort of a missionary residence. We may have again to crowd into our old close quarters for a time, if not a place

worse. Such a probability, by the way, urges upon us strongly the propriety of leaving behind not only our second son of 11 years, concerning which correspondence was had with you last season, but his sister Nellie also, of 9 years, an added reason in her case being chronic weakness of the eyes, resulting from life in the East, being especially taxed in that life at our summer retreat. With only our two small daughters we could the more easily crowd ourselves into our former two living rooms if necessity were laid upon us.

However, we shall see what reply Mrs. Walker of the Home may make, as Mrs. Cole spoke to her on the subject the other day in Hartford.

With best wishes for the new year, and a hope that better financial prospects will dawn upon the beloved Board from some quarter.

Very truly Yours.

R. M. Cole

Secretary, Jan. 19, 1891

Amherst, Mass. March 13 /91

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

In your last you made some allusion to our time of leaving for Turkey. We shall hope to sail the last of July, if not before, though have not yet decided on line of steamers and route.

The house purchase in Bitlis has not materialized yet, though by the time we arrive we trust at least some addition to our former quarters may be effected, so we can get along till that property falls into our hands which may take place any time, though apparently the Board hopes to get more than we wish to pay. We shall probably hold on with our son here in Amherst till about June at least. Meanwhile from this time on we shall want to be laying in something for a re-outfit; and I may need to come into Boston for this purpose not long hence. By the way; we were wondering if our allowance for re-outfit could not be assigned us so we can draw on that for as we have already purchased some things on that list. We are longing to be back in our chosen work

with our dear associates in distant Turkey.
Our so-journ in native land - clean, beautiful America - has been most delightful and helpful in many ways. The Lord has introduced us to not a few charming friends among the churches, and they are sure to follow us and the dear work with greatly increased interest. — Though not broken down in health when we came, we feel conscious of more vigor, and we trust through God to be more efficient because of our time of change & recuperation in such a country as this.
I have just received a note from Rev. R. Chambers who is spending two Sabs in Norwich & New Haven & expects he will pay us a visit during the coming week. Mr. Bartlett wanted him in Smyrna, he told me, only he was hoping for a Turkish spoken man from Central Turkey though I have not heard he has come up to S. I was wondering if Mr. C. ought not to be set aside till the opening in the East for work among the hundreds of Armenians in N.Y. City come as Dr. Schauffler is for the Bohemians in Cleveland. The Worcester monk is planning to form a ch. in N.Y. as in W. and it seems a pity, doing so much as we are for the race, to allow them to drift on these shores, more especially as not a few of them have been associated with protestantism in Turkey. Mrs. Bartlett

Mrs. Hosford to Mr. Baird
16. 3. 91.

Amherst, April 14. 1891

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

As to Miss Burrage we should be glad to accommodate her, but don't see how we can go inland from Samsoun, pleasant as it would be to see the friends and the work at Marsovan, Sivas & Harpoot. It would be a much longer and harder overland and the part between Harpoot & Bitlis infested with robbers, necessitating traveling in large parties. If I was alone it would be another thing, but I don't like to subject my family to any more of these hardships and dangers than is absolutely necessary. Should she wish to join our party as far as Samsoun we shall be glad to do what we can for her, trusting her nerves will be equal to the noise of our rollicking children. We hope to get off pretty early in July, possibly the first week if all goes well, and push on pretty rapidly, only possibly a few days at London, going thence to Constantinople by what is spoken of as the three

days route, through Germany by rail. These are about as definite as our plans are at this time, though I shall probably come into Boston some 15 days hence to attend to re-outfit when we can talk up matters more if you should happen to be in town.

We get along pretty well these days, save the children are having another turn at the grippe, though it is not hard; & Mrs. Cole, too, is suffering from a cold, which we trust is not to terminate in grippe also. We are very busy naturally these last weeks, more especially as we are doing some purchases here, & packing things for Turkey, disposing of & drawing things into closer compass preparatory to striking tents to move eastward.

Yours very truly

R. M. Cole.

Constantinople, April 14, 1891.

Paris, April 15.

Amherst, Mass. Apr. 26/91

Rev. H. G. Clark, D. D.

Dear Dr. Clark;

Partly on the score of auld Lang syne, and partly because you were so familiar with us and our surroundings under the late war about Erzroom, I make bold to tell you a secret, and offer a simple request.

Through the urgent desire of not a few friends, some of whom have manifested keen interest in Mrs. C's tiny verbal reports of that Black year in Erzroom, I have been influenced to set in order for publication the abundant material I noted down - much of it in the form of a diary - connected with the lamented Miss Nicholson's and our tragic experience in that city under siege.

The title page will be something like this. Late Siege of Erzroom, ~~Hospital and~~ ~~A~~ Missionary Life under fire. Hospital & Famine Relief Experiences, &c

My narration runs pretty closely in

line with these themes, and hence can hardly be called a missionary book, nor professional in a religious point, though written by a missionary & clergyman, but is a true story of actual experiences, no small portion of which our wee little American colony formed a part.

It is dedicated to 'My brave companion who elected to stay with me at such a time of peril & hardship - - and to the memory of its heroic young teacher from Nebraska who laid down her life after only nine days of fighting of the brain - -

But why should I say more to give you an idea of the warp & woof of such a book as would come from such times as you know we went through?

Now for the request. It was that you would lay me under special obligations if you would write an introductory to such a book. I have dropped you this hasty note as to the secret, and have made known my request for you to think of. Meanwhile as I am to be in Boston to see as to re-outfit the coming week I

shall be likely to call at your room next Wed.y or Thursday, pass a few words of greeting and get your — yes, of course!

I have said it would n't be a missionary book. This is because I only have in mind a book of 2 to 300 pages, and thought to combine them would make it too long; besides this would more properly stand by itself.—

We felt a keen sympathy for you in view of the note we read in the Congregationalist respecting your son.—

And so the Lord calls away the young as well as those in advanced years.

Mrs. C. joins me in kind regards. We are all in usual health and feel much strengthened and encouraged by our visit in native land, look long to see Dear Brother

Very truly yours

R. M. Cole

Your work in Turkey

Amherst, April 26, 1891

Recd April 27

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Amherst, Mass.
May 8th, 1891

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Your kind communication respecting our being present at Farewell meeting came to hand. We shall hope to comply with your request, though with no servant it is pretty difficult for us both to be away from our children at the same time. My Senior (Bangor) Class are to have a reunion the coming Monday and urge me to join them at Belmont hotel, so I may come down on that, and remain till Thursday. I only wish the two had happened to come on succeeding days.

We are shipping many of our things from Amherst to-morrow so they may be on hand for next Saty's shipment from Boston.

Verry truly Yours

R. M. Cole

Amherst, May 8, 1891

Rec'd May 11

Stark, N. H. June 8/91

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Yours of the 2d inst. has been forwarded me from Amherst, and in reply would say that we shall be happy to do anything we can for Miss Trowbridge to help her on towards the eastern land, though she has not written us as to any plans. Doubtless your friends at the Rooms will see that she starts out with passport, if she does not think of it, and the matter of vaccination is important to be attended to if not already done in recent years.

Our address next week will be Littleton, N. H. In much haste

Yours very truly

R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole

Stark June 8-1891

Rec'd June 10

Bittis, Sep. 22, 1891

Rev Judson Smith D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith. –

At-home once more in this distant-land; no more monotonous sounds of old ocean steamers ploughing their way through opposing waters, no more adventure in the long, lying ashore part of our homeward march, for we are anchored at-last in our old quarters in this unique town of Kourdistan.

But to go back a little. Seems to me we reported ourselves from London. Though we only allowed ourselves two full days there we had some choice bits from the long'l council. Heard the excellent paper of our own Dr. Clark, also Dr. Brand of Oberlin, and some others, among them Dr. Parker's closing address at the Temple. Being old travellers on this ground and with so little time sightseeing was cornted out almost altogether. Addressed ourselves to business as rapidly as possible. Got special rate tickets to Constantinople via Marseilles route £ 13. 1. 8½. ~~a ticket~~ – about a pound

less than lowest quotation by Mr. Ward. Miss Cole was so anxious there should be no more sea for her, and she go to her home in Bulgaria direct, that the three ladies decided to go via Vienna. Our tickets took us with them as far as Calais, where we separated, they pushing Eastward while we sped on to beautiful Paris, where we spent the night. Here, as well as at London, we made little delay, for if we didn't catch the Marseilles steamer of Saturday for Genoa we might wait a week. A night and half days ride brings us into M, some hours before time of sailing. Nothing of special moment to note respecting our voyage hence on to Genoa, save that it was unusually quick as well as pleasant. In G. again we were tempted to hasten as we found our Mediterranean steamer was pushing right up through the Black Sea past Constantinople, the missionaries are off at the Islands for the summer, while the heat and air of the city rendered it hazardous to keep our

children there many days.
Hence our preparations for the overland are hastily made, while again we secure special rate tickets on to our last seaport town - Trebizond - which we reach Aug. 4th seven days less than a month from St. P. the time it took us coming out before.
Though only 250 of our same 8000 miles remains to us, yet for hardship and length of time required this may be considered our half-way house.
The military road made ready to accommodate the late Russo-Turkish war had been so washed out by heavy rains that we were obliged to take that Erzroom new wagon, which had been left for us to bring up on such a trying mountain road that extra horses and men with ropes were required to get it along on the first 20 miles and with no one riding in it.
But much of the way on to Erzroom it was a help and comfort to my family.
Once in Erzroom we would naturally plan for the remaining half of our overland.
But there are hindrances to pushing on

for some days - like want of suitable
caravan, tents etc - so I concluded to accede
to the urgent request of the Erzroom mission-
aries to join Mr Macallum in visiting our
old Erzingan people to see what could
be done to reconcile contending elements
- more especially as the people themselves
had initiated that I come on, giving
hope that they would surely listen to
their old friend. The going and coming,
together with time consumed there, took
twelve days - Our efforts, through God,
did not seem in vain, as likely Mr
Macallum will have written you - Great
as was the alienation of feeling, arising
quite naturally from a very unfortunate
litigation into which they had drifted,
yet we brought them together with con-
fession and hand-shaking after re-
peated meetings, some of them prolonged
till late into the night. We were glad
to meet our old people, and they seemed
very appreciative, treating us like princes
getting up special meals in our behalf
etc. But Mr Macallum was to-

report this tour, I believe, and with more propriety, for if I am their "spiritual father" as they claim, who who begot them spiritually in those early times of persecution, naturally a parent can hardly look upon his children with impartial eyes. Certain it is there the hopeful center of the Erzerum field at the present time, and the people are doing very well till Satan sowed discord in their midst. We hope for a return to better things now. But to our homeward bound. We treated Mrs. Cole to a ride on this 176 mile in the Turkey primitive palace car. The Takhtrovan - torn on by his horses. Nine travling days (exclusive of Sat. of rest) ought to be enough time to get over this distance without any derailment of the car, but somehow the coal shackling gave way and downdunt the thing with quite a jolt to the rider! But upon the whole it served her pretty well. From the rant of built trade in this part of the empire very as gone, like that we brought on to Erzerum

must needs be largely relegated to rice on the plains. Things in this country must advance together, led on by Christian education and intelligence, last-paradentine are be found trying to patch new cloth into this old garment - effete, pre-Adamite Turkey! We arrived here safe and sound last Wednesday the 16th inst. - Have been exceedingly fleet in good health & a prosperous journey all the way on, whereof we are very grateful to the Head of the church. Some 20 of our people as well as missionary associates - men, women & children - came a long way out to meet us, and bring us in like princes, as is their custom - Horsemen were the first to appear some seven miles away, with footmen of every variety from twinkling-eyed little boys & girls up to gray haired men and matrons crowding up to welcome us; boys from the school singing to us a song appropriate to the occasion, as we come in front of their long phalanx drawn up in martial array - Much of our time hitherto has been given to entertaining callers

while at the same time we are trying to elbow ourselves into some sort of shape in our old, narrow quarters till we may some day make hence spread out into the two new rooms our associates have kindly been adding to these premises. The wheel of fortune has given the Kourdish Bey a little margin at present so the purchase of that property is still pending. The action of the Tanzimeling will have shown you the importance they attach to this purchase, £500 accepted. it can't be had without. Meanwhile we couldn't well stand outside while this long negotiation goes on. So my associates, after writing me on the subject, kindly set about the addition above referred to, which is to cost some 90 pounds when completed. This we take on ourselves out the [redacted] 200 we raised on stones Repairs in U. S. till such time as the rent inserted in our estimates will reimburse it. But in view of this extra burden laid upon us I was thinking of asking if you could not endorse our charging in

all of my salary for the 6 months included in Estimates for 91, and so allow the £17.50 applying on the time previous to our arrival — or the much needed place to put us in, as it might be considered, perhaps, as in the same department — for missionaries — Please answer me on this point as soon as convenient — I should say that when missionaries are done with these new rooms they are to be turned over to the use of the Boys' High school that is in need of more room — But not to prolong this letter, losing my impression of the work after two years absence for another letter. I want, in closing this, to refer to a material subject, and would clothe it with all the "movements" my poor pen is capable of and that is our Station Estimates, which have gone on to you for 92 — Largely to our chagrin just as we were entering into the field we learned that so rigid had been your instruction and so small the per-cent for our field that such important matters as salaries of native helpers, touring, medical allowance &c had been

wholly relegated to the contingent list. Now we do hope you will have full letter than that by the time this comes to hand.

Coming back changing the bit for service in lengthening the cords as well as strengthening the stakes we trust you are not going to hold us back from entering upon such an important department of missionary service, and that you will soon pass on the glorious tidings "Take all of these new promising places, Bro. for Christ!"

All are in usual health & looking with good hope towards the future of the work.

With cordial greetings from our home in Asia. Yours very respectfully,

Mrs. Cole has kindly copied what I had hastily penciled down for you as I was so busy!

R. M. Cole.

Bitlis - Sept. 22. 1891.

Recd. Oct. 26.

Confidential. We had no inquiry from Govt. officials along the line, no papers demanded since when come out of Erzerum. R. M. C.

Erzerum Feb. 12. 1891

Dear Bro. Barnum,

Yours of the 26th ult. came to hand by last Post, and I hasten to write you somewhat respecting Eri matters, as per your request, and my opinion as to whether one of your years should take it upon you to go there for a brief time, &c.

We were in Erzroom not 12 to 15 but 20 days in all, though 12 of that was given over to the town & visit in Erzingan. We were guests of the Macallums, but saw much of the Richardsons, as well as people here & in Erzingan. In short we had a pretty good opportunity to take observations and as you have asked me I am going to give you the benefit of them in a confidential way, feeling sure you will take no undue advantage of it, so as to throw it militate against the young brethren there.

So far as accounts go I found they had gotten the station quite out of debt, since Boston had relieved them of that very heavy charge for the pastor's carriage. Mr. R., by the way, claims the carriage did not answer to his order at all, that N. N. C. endorsed the transaction in Boston when Mr. Swett took him down to see the carriage. He. He would liked the money down, but then it was well known that Mr. R. Chambers had ordered an expensive organ for the Mission Consul Genl. in a similar way and why should he not conciliate the Vali on whom they so much depended then were his explanations or apologies for the transaction. But in this and many things it must be admitted Mr. R. is headlong. He doesn't stop to look a thing through but strikes right out rashly - first person singular

first as though he had no associate at all.
I spoke to him of the importance of consultation, and bringing his associate forward to share responsibilities. He took kindly all such suggestions I made, and really seemed desirous of advice. Said he had gone ahead, leaving Mr. Macallum free to study the language for the year, feeling his own misfortune at not having had the time. In our tour to Erzeroum Mr. M. spoke freely and felt he was set aside, but took much of the fault upon himself, admitting he was backward as he was so new he could not speak advisedly when only 10 months in the field. I urged upon him the importance of taking his place as an associate and sharing the responsibilities, for outsiders would hold him responsible for the repulsion of the station, which was not an enviable one now. He felt the force of what I said, and took it kindly. He is the opposite pole of Mr. R. in almost every thing very quiet, slow to act, patient as the days are long, yet scholarly, doing well in the language, though to be slow-spoken in that as in his mother tongue.
In short my findings for the two men are that the disposition of the one ought, perhaps, to be set over against the other as of mutual advantage. I can but hope that Mr. R. even has the elements for a good stirring missionary, only he needs little more of a balance wheel at present. Mr. Macallum needs to be urged forwards - brought out of himself. I got him out for one or two extemporaneous talks and prayers in our Erzeroum visit - once from the pulpit, and he did well for only a 10 months in the land.

Mr. R. thinks he is specially fitted for school work from what he has seen of his class in the school. That may be the case & perhaps Mr. R. will be the steam engine to drive up & down the field! Certain it is that Mr. M. is not over strong & Dr. Thom thinks he will not stand touring, and as he has been seriously ill in Kilmarnock, it looks like it. They had telegraphed for Dr. Raynolds, as they you will have heard. At last news he was a little better. This much for a glimpse of these two young brethren, and likely Mr. Allen will have given you an impression as to Mr. R. as also Dr. Raynolds as they saw him at Ban. I hope good hopes for them both. We really found things at Em not so bad as they sounded at a distance. Their policy & use of the Boards funds seemed to us better than that of some of us who preceded them. You know something how poor and other funds went. Now the people got a £100 in place of the £75 they had written down as their half on the Em parsonage and to this day enjoy a parsonage in which they ~~had~~ have not a rid.! Mr. R. seems quite sharp enough after such previous blunders, and very naturally some of the people kick against it. If he had some of Mr. M's wonderful patience, he would get along much better with the people that had not a little to say, both here & in Ezor. This a pity Mr. M. M. could not come back this fall, as he might be able to save so much estrangement between the people & Mr. R. Now as to one of your years & circumstances going over Em and probable results in a brief visit. Calculate

as your experience, and advice would be I could hardly urge your going, under the circumstances. We did what we could to better things, though in a sort of self-elected, non official way just the same as though we had been commissioned. We were in the midst of our old people & could get at things pretty quickly. We are in a condition to influence both parties now. Soon after reaching here I sent on letters to leading ones in our Ex people to facilitate the final consummation of matters there, and they and Mr. K. write all is going well.

Perhaps I ought to have written Dr. S. somewhat as to Ex giving him more assurance, but as he made no reference to the subject when I knew you had written advising him how were I to know but that he felt otherwise; and who was I to crave any such office! But as it turned, nolens volens, we were delayed there on my way and I took it as an indication of Providence that perhaps I ought to do something to help out, and I cheerfully did what I could though Mrs C. hated to have me enter into matters, especially that at Ex, where the people had been allowed to drift into a most unfortunate law-suit one party with the other. But all is well that ends well.

Feb. 27. Left Ex. Reached Phila. Feb. 28. Left Phila. Nov. 2. Reached home Nov. 3. 1916

In closing let me say here that we have just called on our excellent pastor here (Rehoboth pastor by name) (my first & last visit) who is to come to you. He has been a remarkably good worker as all say, and no doubt you will find him so there so what is our loss will be your gain. His son speaks considerable Eng. his present teacher being one of our Prof. young men, who has been in U. S. a long time. In calling on him please give our salaams. Mostly, H. R. M. Cole.

Bitlis, Dec. 8. 1891

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

First of all permit us workers at the front to echo and re-echo the joy you all must have felt first-hand in that glorious meeting at Pittsfield. Next to the visitation of the Holy Spirit on our work comes such good cheer as we get from the reports and whole personnel of such a gathering. May it be but the harbinger of a new awakening in spiritual activity and greater growth all along the line!

Your letter, too, by the last Post comes breathing a similar spirit, is most timely, and leads us to hope that you may have been able to take not a little left in the contingent list by our Van meeting and put along with unconditional items. One of these, for instance, is the question of winter helpers, and is most vital to our whole work. Not to send these out to teach and preach may be said to be spiking our guns so far as a vigorous winter campaign is concerned in several of the villages that have been pleading for teachers. The crying need of this field is to raise the standard in these village schools

that naturally must be feeders of our High School, so that pupils may gain more of their education amid home surroundings rather than gather here at the center to be so long and so largely beneficiaries of the Board, and at same time be so far alienated from their old village life as to render it much more doubtful as to their returning to it in the end to be patient, successful workers. With good graded schools properly kept up we should hope to fix upon some standard of preparation and possibly some limit in years for the pupil so he would not be posing here in this so-called High School as an indigent for 8-10 years, as sometimes happens now.

But this year we have felt obliged to curtail expenses - turn away some pleaders for teachers and delay others, hoping some brighter revelation might evolve from Your way; and now comes Yours referred to above dated Oct 23 giving "hope that you can go beyond items in the regular Estimates". May we not count this as a rift in the cloud, and take courage to believe that in already sending out some we have been following the trend of Providence. Certain it is there never was such demand for earnest preaching on every hand, such

call for Prot. teachers and they want them right from our schools, too. Formerly they could put up with laymen who could teach them to read, expound the Word, &c. but now they clamor for scholastics who can lead them further up in education, and it means progress. If Gregorians the villagers turn towards our teachers more these times because from this our status in mingling too freely with politics their schools have been largely closed, some in some large centers, and partly because the Oriental Soc. that helped set up schools started out by putting no burden on the people, has not funds to keep on in this way, but with the increased poverty can hardly regulate their mistake now.
But with such rigid surveillance over preacher and teacher, people and pupils we are able to move right boldly on in evangelistic and educational lines hitherto, though the others being less discreet have quite largely withdrawn from educational efforts, leaving us in pretty full possession. Still we would not boast, not knowing what the future may reveal, realizing also that except the Lord build thy labor in vain that build. Our deplorable need at the present time is thorough-going, well tried, heaven-born helpers

to assist in this harvest of souls. Poverty has possession of the land, to be sure, but all the more do oppressed ones need gospel riches, and may Heaven help us to deal it out to them without stint!

But not to deal further with the outlook ~~now~~ more especially as I have not been able to tour the outside field much since our arrival for reasons now to appear I might ~~now~~ enter the "Confessional", and tell you as to the inlook, so to speak, with reference to ourselves.

Though arriving here in good physical condition acclimation soon began to take hold of the two younger of our three daughters. They both had quite a serious run of intermittent fever, one of them having a relapse. About this time Mrs. Cole came down with a more continuous and protracted fever, resulting, perhaps, in part, from too much care of the sick little girls when I was occupied in the sessions of the meeting of the Domestic Missionary Soc. and could not help her — they not taking to a native assistant, meanwhile. She and the little girl with the relapse became so badly off that I telegraphed Dr. Raynolds to come on from Van. It took over three days for the message to reach him while he came on to us horseback in ~~less than~~ a little

over two, - so true is it that Yankee push gets the start of Turkey lightening! After remaining with us three days he started back home, leaving such medicines as he trusted would bring her upon her feet in good time. It is now 38 days since she was taken, and she is only able to sit up in a chair once or twice a day. Though progress is slow we are comforted in the feeling that it is sure. We trust, however, another month may see her well about the house again. Meanwhile, my duties must still lie largely in the line of home missionary work, save what I can do here at the center between times, like overseeing Book Department work, seeing numerous callers, carrying on correspondence with helpers outside I had hoped to visit, ere this, in their places of labor.

— Be assured Mrs. Cole and myself appreciate your thoughtfulness respecting our Turkey domicile. If we are not able to get into the new rooms for the winter (& Dr. R. thought the thick stone walls would not be dry enough for safety to health) such kind sympathy and devising on your part render it all the easier to get along in our crowded quarters, - two living rooms, by the way, both of which have to be

utilized for sleeping apartments at night, since Mrs. C's illness, though during the day drop curtains render it fairly presentable for my native callers. — It is kind in you also to refer again to the humble service we were able to render the cause during our so-journ in native land. It was a pleasure to meet with so many who will look out towards & pray for us and the work in these parts as never before. I made something like a hundred addresses — such as they were, while Mrs. Cole made somethg less in number. Some of our friends noticed that our names were not on the roll of those doing service for the year, but Dr. Creegan presented no such detailed report at the meeting as did Mr. Daniels & Dr. Humphrey, which accounts for it. Enough that He knows whose is the honor of all service. — We had a delightful though only too short visit from Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Wishard, who are canvassing the missions, more especially schools and colleges, on the part of the Y. M. C. A. as you probably know. A Mr. Grant, banker from Phila. and member of Y. P. S. C. E. was traveling with them, but on his own account for the purpose of studying the progress of missions. He took sometime to study Nik and assist somewhat in the Mc All mission work in Paris. They all manifested the keenest interest in every phase of the work, and showed sympathy with the workers even to the extent of electing to put up in uncomfortable villages also. This is the second time during our 23 years connection with the work in Turkey that Mrs. Cole and I have had American guests — save missionaries in the country — and you can imagine it was a great treat to have such choice ones as these were. Their words did us and our people good we are sure.

Very sincerely yours

D. M. Cole —

Within. Dec. 8, 1891.
Recd. Jan. 12, 1892

Bitlis, Turkey, May 17/92

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Dear Dr. Smith;- Very great is our disappointment, on hearing that poor health has detained you from coming to the East this year. We had already begun to plan large delegations for the Harpoot meeting, thinking to see you there. Then, too, we had hope of enticing you up round through our Kurdistan field-bringing you right through the large, beautiful Moush plain, not only to see the work that way, but to give you an idea of what terrible poverty we have to contend with in our work, as also to see what a wonderful center this is for the Armenian work. May this be realized at some future day! It would be an eye-opener to you. Miss Mary Ely and I returned from a two week's sojourn in that city and region, a short time since. Notwithstanding the terrible poverty there has never seemed to me such a set time to favor that city of some 15000 inhabitants. To begin with, that notorious Moussa bey is an exile down in Arabia, and so we have no rehearsals of murders, outrages in families, plunder, etc. poured into our ears, as at other times. Never during these 7 years, since we came into the field, has there been such freedom for poor peasants that way. All this goes to show how easy it would be for the Turk to govern even his outlaws, if he would only make such leading ones an example, as in this case. But we are very sorry to say that the Gregorians, or more properly their schools in Moush, have become so involved in sort of pseudo-political organizations that they are all much under the cloud before the govt. Some 20 of scholars and teachers have been sent off into exile, while four are sentenced for life in such miserable prisons as only such a land can produce. This is all the more unfortunate because that miserable Moussa oftten boasted that only he could keep down the large Armenian element that

that way, and now this secret organization seems a sort of tacid admittal as much, -at least so the Turks may chose to interpret it, and hence there is a flying report abroad that the Bey is to come back again! However, as the Embassies had so much to do in his actual banishment I can hardly s how they will brook such. The poor peasants seem to have the feeling tha the "Protes", are to be credited for his removal from their midst, tho we naturally never speak of it in that light, for revengeful friends of his are still on the ground, and we would not have the people think on the arm of flesh for a deliverer. God has manifested His arm in this matter in more ways than one, and we trust He is to be in it to the end. Praised be He!

But to Moush city. I have said it was the "set time" for this place. Hit to those Gregorian schools absorbed evrything, as they made no demands on the scholar, they even supplying the ink and paper. But now that the parents see into what thier children have been led as members of such schools, th now look towards us, saying they have confidence in us, not only for education, but for morality, and true manhood. Hence if we only had the proper buildings and other arrangements, we might look for a large accession bot for a boys' and girls' shool. We trust the Lord will open the way for this

This city nestles at the foot of the Taurus mts. and has tempting vineyards climbing up the mountain side-tempting in more ways than one. If temperance needs to be agitated amid the surroundings society influence o Cristian America, how much more is it called for in this land, where ther is little for conscience, or sense of manhood. More especially is this tr till they are told better than to drink. Before going to America I spent some weeks there, and put in all the "rousments" I was capable of on this impo tant subject -presenting the pledge, which was a strange thing, as also the preaching of temperance in any form. I was very glad to find that after two years most h held true to their promise. The case of a young man was interesting. He had been invited to a feast of his tradesmen. When he utterly refused to drink with them they said "Can it be that you have taken a billet (meanig

the pledge) of Mr. Cole?" to which he replied "Yes", and left the place lest the attempt to force him. The people told me it was no uncommon thing to hear it said "Have you taken the billet"? when one refuses to drink. There has been less drunkenness since then, some coming to feel ~~some~~ shame in the matter. Turks, we were told, had made some move intrying to forestall it's coming in among them, prompted not a little, no doubt, by action at Conspl. as prohibitive movement lest sons of the faithful fall away from principles laid down in their Koran.

We had very full meetings, our little quarters not beeing able to take in our daily gatherings. The Gregorian prelate of two years since was even guilty of defending our course in the temperance matter, so far as words went, albeit saloon keepers had run to him to curse us! But the one now in charge adds still another thing, in that he has taken up "preaching", as they call it, to the great crowds of women that go to his service on Wednesdays. If magician like he is doing this, still it gives us vantage ground in that they were all the readier to come to our services, they thronging the meeting Miss Mary had for them separately. Thus it is the Lord is constantly showing us how he can use all these elements, even the wrath of man, to praise Him in some way and time.

We naturally had rather heavy roads in going and coming, but felt how propitious it was we could make the tour at this time, as there was special need in the work. We shall look for advance in the work that way.

Since our return we have been having the usual Anl meeting of our D. M. Soc. the helpers, and some delegates coming in from others parts of the field. The last of the delegates left us yesterday. Though poverty is so great as to cast no little discouragement into our deliberations from time to time, still, upon the whole, outsiders seemed to feel it had been one of our most precious gatherings. There was a general feeling that the Constitution of the Soc. should be revised in several particulars, to meet such emergencies as couldn't be foreseen at the outset.

The other Sab. was a precious day to us all, more especially our circle and the acting pastor of this church. As you probably know the pastor of the

Diarbekir church attempted to graft onto our Prot. churches an anomalous kind of Episcopal baptism, having brought on from England a wife of that persuasion. But he did n't make his new kind of baptism and church work very and so gave up it and his office for secular pursuits. This church was i veigled into it from a letter sent by the church when the missionaries were passing a winter over at Van, the old pastor very foolishly acceptin for a time as an "experiment", as he says, not seeming to realize how difficult it would be to go back on such action in this land steeped and brewed in the idea of baptismal regeneration. He saw his mistake whn it was too late. The church has not grown as it otherwise would. Certain had be satisfied in reaching over into the sacred enclosure, and taking out this ordinance, that would be enought to conciliate the ignorant women, who fel their offsprings were unclean till the rite was performed, while they were no concerned as to wherther they themselves entered in, so as to remember o Lord in the sacrificial supper. This the church has come to feel of late just as we have for thse years, and boldly told a few laymen so, when the were treatening to break up our baptismal service, if their children wer not accepted, as well as those of church members. But, as I have hinted, a these more than five years neglect of the rite in hopes these few la men would yield the point, it went boldly forward, some fifteen children beeing baptized, one of whom was the infant daughter of Rev. and Mrs. G.P. It was an impressive service, all seemed to feel, and we hope marks a new era for this church. With general baptism out of the way, and good vigoro church discipline we shall look for more Christianity, tho it may decrea numbers. May such be our ambition rather than to roll up numbers!

We are able to report a fair bill of health now, as a circle. Our new rooms (two in number) are so far dried that we are now making use of the

I sent a Sketch of Bitlis Station to Dr. Strong, which he requested, but have some fears it may have been lost, as we know some other letters were about that time; if such be the case, and he will drop me a postal to tha effect, I will send another copy. Our Turkey Posts have been less reliab of late. With hopes that you will have fully regained your health

Your, s most sincerely

R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole
Bitlis May 17/1892
Rec'd June 23

Bitlis, Turkey in Asia, June 9th, 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Smith;- As our Station treas., Mr. G. P. Knapp, took up his semi-annual acct. this week it was discovered there seemed to be a mistake in the passing on of my salary from Boston-it being put at £167, 50, instead of 187, 50 or 180, 50 as formerly. The Mission at Van failed to put it into their Estimates, and at Boston it would seem a figure 6 was used where an 8 was intended. There may have been a mistake in copying at Constan'ple or Harpoot. If the matter had been discovered in season we could have informed you in time so you could written Mr. Peet before our acct. reached him. We inform him we have written you, and so trust he will not return our charge as per former figures, as an irregularity, or at least he may await your letter. The two or three years before going to U. S. we tried to get along with 180, 50; but now with our two sons in course of education, one at Auburndale and the other at Amherst college, where it costs even the economical upwards of $400 a year, all of which must rest on us and him very soon, as he approaches the age when help from the Board is cut off, while he is not sufficiently decided as to his future to lead him to feel like accepting help from the ministerial students' fund-with this outlook, I say, I dont see how we can get along on 167, 50, and can but feel there has been a mistake somewhere, or the figures would not been thus. Our treas. is entering in acct. to Mr. Peet as per former figures-just as he did in Dec. acct which was accepted- but a word from you to Mr. Peet would be safer. Our treas. thinks as it was accepted by Con'ple treas. in Dec. it will probably be now, but I dont feel sure so write you, as a mistake has entered somewhere. We are all in usual health as a circle.

Yours very sincerely, R. M. Cole -

Rec'd June 6, 1892.

Filed July 12.

At our Encampment,

Bitlis, Turkey, Aug. 12. 1892

Rev. Judson Smith D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I found yours of good cheer dated 16th June on coming in from the long, very hot journey to Harpoot meeting, a few days since. We only wish the Turkey Post might have brought it to hand a little sooner, as the kindly sentiment and hope, as looking to the 1st Contingent at least, would have given more heart for the final work on Estimates, and afforded us a better send-off for the journey and meeting.

Of our delightful mission gathering on the Harpoot heights, in the gardens where we were quite comfortably provided for in the summer houses of our friends, you will have heard through the usual channels of letters, &c.

But a part of our estimates – that under Contingents was relegated to our number to cry up, as we regard the merits of the case, Mr. G. P. Knapp may have treated of some of the points that I had in mind to refer to, though not having seen his letter I am in doubt, but if I do write the same things to you it may be safer than to run

risk

of their not being referred to by any of us; more especially as our Com^ee on Finance wished each Station to look nice to proper explanations to you on Contingents.
It has been a compression if not depression process to attempt to get our absolute needs of the work into such 'tights' as the meager per Cent. (18%) allowed us, would permit.
As you glance at the sums for regulars and irregulars (you may wonder which foot is first, and ask like one looking for the first time upon the letters of a foreign tongue - Which side is up!! As for importance there might be some difficulty in our deciding ourselves which should have the precedence, more especially as looking to work for woman, since most in the mission have come to presume very largely on the generosity of the W. B. M. - fall wheresoever it might. More especially did we feel justified in such liberty since the Ely sisters, who have in the past mostly made up Estimates for this department, did not feel they could accept their proportion of the cut of almost 1/4 of regulars turned back upon us two years since, - the argument being that the W. B. M. is advocating enlargement, &c. all of which was true so far as correspondence

work, albeit our work for man (perhaps about as important as that for woman) was so thoroughly behind that on arriving I found the Station laboring under a debt of which our new treas. Mr. G. P. Knapp, is writing you, I suppose. Ergo, a stronger argument for letting so much of that department pose under contingent, so he might have a little more for regulars. This would be a ~~two~~ box of apology to the W. B. if they should seem to feel he had presumed too much on their generosity. As away back in that garden, so down to the end of time I suppose those departments must naturally be considered not a little interlinked, and one can hardly boast over the other of independence or super importance. Certain it is we of the male side can never lose our interest in that department, nor yet would we turn our backs on that for man - hand in hand - an even front, being our theory. Moush, Shekhaghonk, Khoultig and Liz Estimates look right in this Co-operative line. two of the places already being occupied in part by wives of the preachers, who are themselves graduates of this Mt. Holyoke Seminary, and who, as well as their husbands, are in need of something like a parsonage -

As for Moush City and the modest £100 we put on the male department for building there I feel like putting in all the "rousements" I can muster only I know that not length of speech, but pointed facts, are what such as you can make eloquent in interest and importance. In the city itself some 7000 Armenians which there are on the magnificent plain in front, and over the mountain at the south all, in the circuit of five hours, about 150 villages, largely Armenian & containing of that nationality 40 to 50000 inhabitants — such a strategic center as I have hardly seen anywhere in Turkey. We would take this for Christ as never before, but we need a lodgement. I have spent considerable time there since coming to this field, but two or three times have barely escaped serious illness for want of any suitable quarters in such a dirty Oriental city. Weider occupation here is even more important than in Erzingan & Midyat, since hence he can tour the whole field in winter much better than from Bitlis this is so shut in by deep snows. Erzr has cost the Board nine than twice what we ask for Mu. though for importance as a center it is triple the former. Then, too, by this outlay we hope to provide for both a boys' as well as girls' dep't — a most important thing, as now the Gregorian Schs are in very bad repute from nationalistic manoeuvrings on their part, and parents now send their

children here, had in a suitable place for them.
Liz is a large village in the center and near other villages on a plain a day east of Mosul plain; and this sum asked for this place is in the nature of enlargement, as heretofore we have only had a native helper there, he having his Sch. in a very dark, unsuitable room furnished in a house.
Lakhi Klouksh is a town in Bitlis where a sch. sprung up last fall and very soon run up 450 scholars, none than could be accommodated in the old dilapidated house of one room. This fell into our hands for only £17. We have been forced to purchase an adjacent corner & set to putting up an extra room - with repairs of the old - to provide for X^n education here. The T. M. A. Soc. kindly ~~answered~~ responded by remittal of £20, but the other we have put into Estimates, and have to compass we are in for it, soon though personally we have to bear it, since much of this money is already spent, while more is to go, till soon we hope to have 50-100 pupils, paying tuition, for a sch. in a town where there is no such, & so all the more important.
Not to give that "aid to thud. students" would be to lay the knife to the neck of our young men entering upon their last years in Seminary at Mardin, as they must graduate till next year, & must have something to live on from now.

on till time of graduation.

As for the sum asked for Colportage it speaks for itself, especially, when I tell you that for some two years we have been largely pensioners on the Bible Society that is so part of late (as per Mr. Borooah's correspondence) as not to wish to have their agents take around our mission books, albeit all our helpers up & down are never so happy as also we missionaries there more than 50 years as when effecting sales of Scriptures and parts of the same! Not a little time was taken up in our meeting, formulating and resolutions &c with letter passed on to that Soc. while all manifested keen regret that the Soc. should thus turn on us, when from our straits for the general work we can't do so much through direct agents, through teachers & preachers, as also ourselves, are their voluntary salesmen.

Bitlis, Aug. 12, 1892.
Rec'd Sept. 24.

More than ever did I feel the great contrast in going from this field of so much poverty & misrule in the Hoopoot region. These Xns are in so much better condition - riding about as aghas, depending on American machinery for agriculture not a little - even a reaper being at work on that plain, the drown by turkey oxen, not horses. Hardly a family that has not a representative in U.S. some ordinary villages have 50 - 75 there some of whom have sent on goodly sums of money to help out those left behind. But I must stop write more now. Found the friends well on our return. By the way yours of 13th July as to daily question just at hand. Thanks. With kind regards from us all

Very truly yours - R. M. Cole.

Confidential. Bitlis, Sept. 29. 1892

350

Dear Dr. Smith;

You will have come back from a successful meeting of the Board of trust, and be now about sitting down to the task of scoring the Estimates to cut the funds in hand as the letter comes to hand. At such a time you naturally turn with special interest towards places brought to your notice in the list, and you count it faithful work has been done in detail by the mission meeting. True as Finance Com^ee and a meeting we tried to do our duty, but found no little embarrassment in certain directions. Notwithstanding many changes made in the Erzroom Estimates, for instance the Mission part was allowed to stand, though most of us felt stumbled at it such items as £125 for scholar in the Gov^t sch.^s, and it was only left over as a remote contingent, thinking it might likely not carry with you at Boston.

Then again such an old Prot. community and ch. as that at Khanous near our Moush region was contributing nothing on their pastor who in the end was put under the head of evangelist for the region though probably to ultimate more than more for all that.

In our Bitlis field, too, we are far from perfect, only that our people are so terribly poor we should throw more upon them; but in this city, partly from some factious spirit between

the church and parish the latter, especially gives too little, though their ability is less as well as their self denial.

But a trying thing just now is readjustment of certain helpers & now especially one called "Genl assist. and evangelist" by name of Haroutune. He has been under employ some 23 years and always in this city his native place. He was started out on a pretty large salary, partly because alone as Mr. Knapp was then, he was considered his assistant. But as at present constituted there is no need for him here though there is great need for one of his experience in the outside field. By kinship and his own course he has come to be counted somewhat partisan, and so the people don't wish him for preacher while too he is not up in modern methods so as to be a successful teacher in the schools. But he absolutely refuses to reside anywhere else in the field while to live here so much shut in by deep snows and with so little push as he has he will amount to little as an evangelist. Our people here have turned from him and taken our Genl evangelist, Pastor Hoop, and we wanted Haroutune to take his place outside, perhaps residing in this same region - Moush. Baron Haroutune was only of Harpoot's early pupils in the old Theol. Seminary and been a licensed preacher doing fair service

He has more than once persuaded in having his
aly raised, so he yielded by letting 25 ps. more go
n thinking perhaps it would not pass the mission
pproval. As it passed in Contingent bill - the
hole Saly - no notice was taken of it.
But I dont see in conscience how we are to
arry such a heavy salary to really apply also
n this city to a large extent, whatever name he
may bear, especially when he pay on their acting
ractor 1200 ps. and when they give no more
n education. Hence for one I wish you
ould just let your pen race out the 25 in-
rease in his Saly & it would relieve us.
his and other mission results, was cut off at Sept.
albeit at Van last year an abundance gouch
ent right through - the brethren (most of whom are
young) apparently not taking into ye instructions
in that Memorandum sent out years ago.
Consistency between meetings, by the way, is quite
important, or our position before natives becomes
awkward to and much dissatisfaction arises.
This much for my non-official, confidential chat.
Most of us are down from encampment, and I was
planning a tour of the outstations though now we hear
a quarantine is set up only 2½ hours out of town.
We trust this has grown out of only some false alarm,
and that our work is not to be hindered. Suffice it to
say that we are all in usual health, & trust through God to
well in safety, & be busy in His cause. Hastily but with
cordial greetings. Yr R. M. Cole.

Bitlis, Sept. 29, 1892
Rec'd Nov. 7

B i t l i s ,Dec.15th,1892. 351

Dear Dr.Smith;

You friends at the Rooms naturally turn towards these parts with more than usual interest now that cholera is added to the many other scourges of this unfortunate land, and who knows but that some of our friends, too, may be plying you with questions as to our wellfare. Hence I send on the enclosed, which gives a glimpse of how things are with us at this date, with no need of my repeating. Of course the material is yours and Dr. Strong's also at first hand, should either of you care to draw from it, after which it may pass on as marked. Properly I should stamp these envelopes, but being 8000 miles away from the supply you will excuse me.

We are all in usual health. Mr. G. P. Knapp and Miss Mary Ely are in the outside field, though expected home any day, after which I expect to pack off for Moush. We yet have no regular winter weather-it being spring-like much of the time. For sanitary reasons we would not object to genuine winter weather with plenty of dame Nature's clean snow to cover up uncleanness about.

Cordial greetings from all R. M. Cole.

Bitlis, Dec. 15, 1892

Recd Jan. 28, '93

Bitlis, Turkey in Asia, Dec. 22d. 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Smith;- Not long but more frequent letters will please you better, probably, as the cholera scare keeps you more or less anxious as to how it is faring with us. There is still no cholera in town, but quarantines are kept up just outside, and there is said to be not a little sickness, especially in Van, though of that you are better informed than we, most likely, for we get no Posts with regularity of late. Five weeks and we get not the usual weekly letter from our dear Frank at Auburndale-quite to the anxiety of his mamma, to say nothing of papa. Think of the above date, & yet we staunch Republicans knowing nothing of your late election save a very few lines in our Prot. Armenian paper of Con'ple, stating Cleveland has come in again. Naturally we feel anxious to hear how this thing has come about, as we hoped for another result! But we wait in patience the explanation. Our usual winter weather, for these parts, is upon us. This morning mercury stood at 9° above. We have had in all nearly four feet of snow for the opening chapter of winter. Mr. George P. Knapp and Miss Mary Ely are snow-bound in the outside field somewhere. They went to Moush expecting to pass over to the Boulanik plain east, and doubtless they have reached there all right, and are doing good work in some of the villages, tho high table lands lie this side to shut them off from home, as deep snows block the way for a time. These deep snows, by the way, is a strong argumement in favor of expenditure in Moush city so we can work from that center winters, more especially, since deep snows dont fall that way, and we should not have to run such risks to tour the field as we do from Bitlis so largely buried in the snows. Horses go and come on that plain very much as they do in the Erzroom regions, while from this center we must depend on the handsled, or go out at the risk of being blocked as our friends now are somewhere. Let this militate in favor of the Moush expenditure of which I have previously written.

Usual winter weather for this city, is upon us. This morning mercury stood the lowest-9° above. The fresh snow of five days ago was a God-send to us as a family. It was on thiswise. At about half past one A.M. Sunday morning we heard some calling out, but supposed it might be some midnight wedding party. But soon I noticed bright flashes of light glimmering into our room, jumped to my feet, saying to Mrs. C. there must be a fire in our or the Bey's house (just through the wall from us). On rushing upon the roof (flat of course) I

room
discovered one room of the Bey's all in flames. We soon had the chapel bell rung, our some 20 boarders of Boys' school were on hand, together with neighbors that rallied in response to the weird sound of the bell that d n't reach far amid the such thick-falling snow. The some 18 inches of ne snow we sent whirling into the flames from about on the roof with a vengeance, and it was about as good as water to extinguish the fire. Our sch. soon formed a fire brigade to hasten on the water to us or we should had turn over our house to the fire-fiend; as it was Mrs. C. had made ready som of the more choice things for the flight, if it could n't be avoided. The poor Bey himself was quite overcome from fright and effects of the b smoke, so that he had to retreat from the scene. By desperate fighting of the fire, we brought it into subjection. A few neighbors were very helpful comparatively few in the nearest ward seemed to hear the alarm. This caused no little fright in our circle, though only our little daught Alice of my own family was seriously frightened, but nothing serious se to have resulted to any one. Our hearts are full of gratitude to God tha He did n't suffer us to be turned out of our home on such an inclement, cheerless winter's night. I called on the Bey the next day. He had not su fered in health. O how grateful both he and his poor wife were for our e forts at the fire! The latter met me in the hall-no longer with covered face as though she would fall at my feet as to her own father, from deep gratitude. "But for you folks where should we been"? she said.

You may know that this is the property we have been hoping to get hold of in the purchase, and it remains to be seen whether this affair will ha on the transaction or not. The fire took place through the carelessnes one of their servants. We are all in usual health, save Mrs. C. seemed to be cold that night, and is tired from the nervous strain.

I sent a letter to you with enclosures, last week, and shall take the liberty o sending a word quite often to keep your minds at rest as to our safety.

With cordial greetings from us all,

Yours very truly,

R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole
Doc. 22 1892
Rec'd Oct. 4 1893
Bitlis Bey

Moush, Feb. 9. 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith,

In keeping with hints in my last to you I find myself in this city and vicinity, and am doing what I can for the cause, while Miss Mary Ely is also working faithfully for women & girls, assisted by a graduate of their Bitlis girls sch., who is also teacher here of some 30 girls. I am holding daily meetings at the houses just before sunset for mixed audiences, and in how full attendance. Miss Ely also puts in a meeting for the women in P.M. now & then, aside from the regular weekly women's meeting, when not too much occupied in visiting from house to house. Her bodyguard and pilot through these usually dirty streets now piled full of snow, is a poor woman who had a slight taste of Bitlis Sch. life before the Ely sisters came to this field. Her husband is confirmed drunkard and prodigal son now wandering somewhere in Russia - the land of all others for drunkenness. She has been before the church as looking to admission to communion, and seems to give good evidence of a change of heart, though is not yet accepted. She is so anxious for the welfare of her children but finds it very hard with the father leading on so recklessly in the broadway.

Some four years ago the man himself was here, and

we did what we could for his reform. He dropped drink for the time, and went so far as to write a letter begging his son in the Samasarian College at Erzroom not to touch the wine bottle, that after French fashion was set by each plate. The poor man received a terrible rebuke from the son who was so taken to do by the school faculty for reporting the wine habit as to be well nigh expelled altogether. As might be expected this young man, though now a graduate of this the Gregorians' boasted paragon of a sch., is following rapidly in the track of the father - to the great sorrow of the mother. This much for their education with no high moral standard, less of Bible & religion, but having a strong admixture of French infidelity together with the free habits of drink and living of that same land.

But to come back our present environments.

We are trying to do what we can to stem the baleful influence of the many vineyards of this region. This now Paregentan (food-living) period when people are preparing the long seven weeks Lent by a surfeiting of eating and drinking for two weeks, foolishness which they endeavor to atone for all by simply abstaining from the fruit of the block the eating freely of other things, smoke & drink but not expected to get quite so drunk!

Though itinerating in the villages I plan to be here three days in hopes some poor ones may be kept from the coil of the way. Partly from the novelty of temperance-

preaching, and partly, perhaps, from the ease with which the people catch it up, my short cognomen is bandied about pretty freely. One accustomed to drink went out from our meeting impressed with temperance determination, but to be met by old cronies with "And have you been near Mr. Cole the reason you don't drink?" Only Gospel influences can cope with the direful effects of intemperance here that tells on woman as well as man. As might be expected she too is being swept along with the current quite too often. She is taking up not only smoking but drink as well. The present is one of the set periods of the church for marriages - regarded as one of its seven rites - and she may be caught joining in the drunken debauch. At a near neighbor's see as an outcome of the wedding two or three men taken off to prison by the police from a disgraceful fight, while one poor woman is so badly off from drink that, reeling through the street on the home beat she advertises herself by having lost her shawl! But as a rule woman is slow to yield to the accursed cup, as she has felt too keenly its smart from man's career. The wife of one of our hopefully reformed new Protestants was ready to stand up respectfully to family prayers, and even come to some of our meetings she told him if only her husband would give up the last cup. Woman suffers in other ways, for morality goes down as the drink traffic advances. No carousal is com-

plete long without her presence, sometimes innocent little girls far below their teens playing an important part. Leer-eyed young men, vagrant in morality and benumbed by drink are just jealous enough of the purity of the opposite sex to wish these bright little toys, decorated for the occasion, for their future wives, and thus child-marriage is introduced which is becoming the bane of this place. Sometimes "Jezebel" mothers and priests eager for their fees hasten on such results. Two cases are just now in point. One not yet 10 years old was attending our sch. by request of her father now in Fresno, Cal. who hints he may want her to come on there. But the cruel mother to forestall such sets on foot a marriage scheme for all friends can say and despite the entreaties of her own child! We tried to exert our influence through the chief church dignitary, who admitted that they, too, had on record a rule that girls should not be married under 15, but said they are often deceived. On seeing how this case has turned we might have added 'None are so blind as these ignorant, unscrupulous priests who care see beyond their marriage fees. Both these brides fled from their new so-called homes, crying as though their hearts would break, back to the old home, though only to be forced back again of course. Christian England could fix the years of such at 12, to begin with, in idolatrous India, but here is a so-called Christian people, who would criminate the world for not defending them

against oppression and misrule, introducing woman to such dire thralldom as becomes the dark ages, and as will bring untold misery upon the race.

But though such irregularities and sin do so abound here, ours it shall be to labor that Grace shall much more abound. Preaching of the Gospel and christian education in our two schools of over seventy tuition scholars, begins to tell. Of the importance of this wonderful center and the Gospel light we have thrown out on the back ground of sin, I spoke in a letter sent by promise to Dr. Strong, who had a cut of Monsh. Our great desire is to increase the light and fervor of the Gospel, but we can hardly make brick without straw.

How are we expected to house two such schools when the Mission granted us no rent even, and where are your own representatives supposed to bivouac meanwhile? Come and see. As I write sitting on the floor with my knee for a table 8 boys are going through their lesson in this room 14 x 15 that serves as kitchen, dining room, study and guest room for the preacher, Miss Ely & myself during the day, to be relegated to her and her assistant at night, while I betake myself to the little chapel or general sch. room, perchance to be saluted by a "church mouse" in his nightly wanderings.

Pray think on these things tho the amt. we asked for this place was pushed into the first of the contingent list at our 1st meeting, and if the financial outlook is too dark may we not push by the Rooms in some special appeals to friends?

From the incidental trend of this letter, and as half of what

we asked for was intended for woman's work perhaps the friends of the Woman's Board would find some way to give us a lift. Though there is risk in health point for us to live as we have to here, as I have suggested in the past, yet our plea is more for the work proper, as with domicil we could lay hold here for a whole winter, perhaps with family, as has been done in Erzingan & Mydiat, &c, which would be much better for the work, and as now good work can't be done for the schools. There is a large house with small stable and large yard filled with trees, for sale, and probably the whole thing could be had for £300 - $1,320. That would accommodate the girls sch, missionary, &c. so that with the building belonging to the Board & people, we now occupy, this center would be quite well provided for for years to come. It would have in connection with our schools such provision for room and self boarding, lodging, &c as would give parents of near villages a chance to send their children here so supplied with provisions from time to time that they need not go on to Bitlis the heavy expense to the Board till such time as they are prepared to enter at once upon the High Sch. course proper. This would be good economy, and as a school exert much more influence for good from this center than in such a place as B.- This much for my mouth notes. Think on us and our plea and let us know the result.

Yours very truly R. M. Cole.

Marash, Feb. 9, '99.
Rec'd March 12, '99.

Mousul City, Feb. 14. 1893

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Perhaps we shall weary you by our continual coming? but if we might hope to gain more for this so needy field would not the end justify the means though I did send a letter by last Post. The truth is we have just heard through Bit-lis of the heavy cut in our Estimates for the regulars, aside from the whole of contingents, albeit from your letter to me about the time we were sending out our teachers for the winter to the villages, we were led to hope that this would be granted, though you feared for the contingent list. But now the worst comes to hand. If it did not prove a cut in my appetite for my plain dinner here, it has near to it, and harder to digest, considering the stress for the work, than the toughest old buffalo meat could be! What can we do, whither turn? I tried to impress upon you before the importance of this great center, having with its magnificent great plain some than 50,000 Armenians. But I know you and the beloved Committee are impressed, tho the power is not in your hands to go beyond the warrant of financial prospects. But would that those who have been determined to fight

about the shibboleths of Missions and Board management seem to rendering asunder our dear society that has done such noble service well on to a century, might stand just where we foreign workers do for a little, and they would stop so descanting on theory and set to for rescuing these immortal souls as though death and an eternal judgement were staring them in the face now. Why could not they be satisfied in "letting well-enough alone", or are they determined to kill the peaceful old hen that has laid the golden egg. If ours has not been the banner Board of the churches, and presented to the world a peerless work where will they find such? Does reform in this world blossom out by striking upon most hopeful, successful organizations! Supposing we all do preach "Behold now is the day of salvation", is that likely to lead people to put off the day, and so harm the work. I have often met natives who liked to magnify Gods mercy as a cover to their sinful career, but they always say mercy comes on this side of the grave, sometimes saying "Who believes there can be any chance beyond", perhaps citing the "great gulf" that lay between the rich man & Lazarus.

But we ever a picketer for drifting once, for he is led on by the feeling that not want of money but lack of filial devotion on the part of some is bringing our work into straits. The Lord forgive for they know not what they do!

Later. 15th. That 'tougher-than buffalo-meat cut followed

me into the night, and I could not sleep. Will some of those learned Professors, or delinquents towards the Board, give me a chapter on hygiene so I may grapple with this question with no long distressed spell! "Is there no balm in Gilead, no physician"? Is there not danger that some would venture to steady the Lord's ark? Would they thrust barbed arrows at what He has so signally anointed with His own favor.

Pardon my rather familiar way of address, yet in some sort I could tone up my own feelings so as not to be over-depressed by this disappointing news at this lonely place where there is so much need for a few hundred dollars to set the work upon its feet.

As it now appears there not only is nothing for buildings here to accommodate the schools and ourselves, as I suggested in my last, but we have not room some 20 for rent, two rather than see the cause stop at such a center, while I am in the field, I will take that much from my bread & butter, as indeed we may have to do for some other desperate cases.

I have been pretty busy for these nearly six weeks, - solemnizing seven weddings in three different places, five in a mountain village, four at one service - beginning at one end of the line! One of the brides was brought from a village away some 20 miles among the mountains from which this same village used to sole before the Gospel taught them a better way. Now they

(the former) spoke of how glad they were to have their daughter go to a home among the "Protes" where there would be cursing and blasphemy. Other nearer villages pronounce blessings on the gospel in that their vineyards and sheepfolds no longer suffer at the hands of these champions of another faith. Though large & stalwart to the terror of people in the region formerly, under gospel rule they are so earnest and simple hearted that a child may lead them tho' they are in great poverty indeed.

By the way, I am not a little puzzled, if not pained, to know why Woman's work can have her contingents even while Man's is cut off altogether and also 1/3 of the regulars. This looks like partiality. Do not men bear the heavy responsibilities and burdens of the work and could the ladies manage in this strange land without us and some of our gallantry? Ask them. But to let their contingents come in ahead of our regulars makes the former a misnomer, seems to me.

Here ends my second epistle from Moush.

Yours very sincerely.

R. M. Cole.

Moush City, Sept. 14, 1885.

Rec'd Sept. 11 1885

(Confidential & Particular)

Confidential

Boards tell them they too, have printed and distributed for a woman in Madagascar to use & the warehouse in Madagascar Bro. Pearse Bro. Ellis and Bro. Sibree

Rev. Dr. Smith, Back from our some days absence Mosh way some days since yours of the 4th Feb. came to hand last evening and as per your request I make an immediate reply, though to canvass the subjects you refer to viz. Estimates for woman's work $700 in a ward of Bittis and $300 to pay in part for a building to be had for "missionary winter occupation in Mosh" seems hardly worth the while now since the same mail that brought your letter brings a note from our Mission Treas. at Tamatave announcing that these sums are already in hand, and they now stand to the credit of our Station. Good for that, and the energetic ladies that are to be thanked I suppose, for this prompt action! And yet to my mind there is rather a ridiculous look to the results of things in these matters, as I hinted in mine sent from Mosh. For that place, for instance, we put in £175 - 75 of which was under woman's work while the 100 going towards the same building was designated for "missionary winter occupation". The former is granted

Bittis Hurry

Mrs. Smith, receipt of your kind letter of Feb. 4th was duly received. Mrs. Pearse regards the Mosh work as a very trying one. Mrs. Sibree

while the latter goes a begging, albeit that "winter occupation" might often mean the presence of two American women (one of them the missionary's wife) and possibly Miss Ely's assistant with her school in the same building, and only one man in the whole concern! It seems a pity now that he entered the account at all, and that his wife whom, of course, he counts second to none of her sex in the mission for influence and devotion to work for woman, had not figured in his stead, in hopes the other half might been granted, as with this £300 alone the object cant be realized at all. Then as to the Head Wood in this city they did well to grant the £700, for the Ely sisters are careful of funds and this action encourages them much. But if you care to look down into our men's contingent list you will find our modest sum of £50 on what is called a school house for Head Wood - just the same wood, and where we have already gathered nearly 50 scholars, and hope to have a proper meeting for women and in due time a Sab. P.M. service to be led by some of our gentlemen for mixed audiences. Now when he arrived here from America 18 mos. ago Mr. G. P. Knapp had purchased an old house for the paltry sum of £17, hardly as looking to

what has now been granted, but as this place did n't seem to satisfy the Ely sisters we set running a school for boys - there being no such in the town. The old room soon proved too small, and we were forced to seek enlargement by buying space enough for the same, rebuilding the old room and adding upon the new part. Thus it was we got drawn on into this scheme, but the work so grew upon our hands what could we do? I succeeded in getting up £22 from the Turkish Missions Aid Soc. and Mrs. C. has gathered from some of her friends, but still there was £50 very much needed, as the money was already spent, and this went into the Contingent list to ~~save~~ our being forced to turn off helpers. That, too, has gone to the winds while the $700 is already in hand with no immediate work developed to press for it or any immediate prospect of a house for purchase just now. Just before going to Ann.l meeting last year there was one that Miss Ely thought strongly of purchasing though money was not voted but we rather dissuaded her on the score that as per our regulations we should not feel to assume responsibility in the matter if the Board's funds were to be involved, as the

a Mission meeting was soon to convene. Had they made the purchase, however, their plan was to pay for it with their own funds should it not be fully endorsed. The move has been taken up with much vigor by the elder Miss Ely, and has resulted in a most commendable contribution on the part of the Prot. women of the congregation, and if a suitable place can be had, and the remove over across the valey to other side of market should not interfere too much with their & their teachers (necessarily much connected with training bible women) ~~their~~ going and coming, there may be a splendid work developed in a most needy road. For this so up our prayers, sympathy & effort so far as in us is. But we do feel so cramped in our departments, and almost begin to wonder why there is a male department anyway! Perhaps we are clogs any way. Still now that you say funds are coming in better, you may send words of better cheer ere long, when we may stand up again as men. There now, it is not much for particulars as to said buildings I have said, you see. But it is utterly impossible to tell just how much will be required in a purchase yet to evolve. It is evident, however, that in all some $300, would be needed for month, when some of our wives might show the Woman's

Bittis, March 21, 1873.
Rec'd Apr. 28.

as to our Pres. Mr. Wood meeting with us for time - may be in our sphere of labor in Carolina. Hope fall I & receive many words which then Cast light upon which is not clear of the only remaining difficulty.

Bitts

Dr. Smith

Dear Dr. Smith D.D. Thanks for yours of 11th Feb. that came to hand two Posts since, and my associates have also had the benefit of it - perhaps taking note of what you say as to their writing oftener. We are all in usual health save the senior, Mr. G. C. Knapp, who has been quite poorly for some time, tho they do not speak of it, probably, nor do we so as to have it referred to in replies to our letters. It remains to be seen if the opening Spring will do anything for him. With our more than 20 feet face of snows there is not much encouragement and opportunity for such as he to get a variety out of doors. However we hope for the best, and would not wish to have any doubt of ours pass to his daughters or immediate friends, lest their writing may be more hopeful. I am sorry for your embarrassment, as to the mouth building, before the Woman's Board. If what I have sent, as also Miss Mary Ely's, has come to hand you will have seen how we had not yet got in line of a particular building so as to give a definite estimate. Our hope has been that we might purchase a building, that by a few changes

Yours Sincerely
R. M. Bolt

would serve our purpose, and so ask for less money. But in view of such not being available we ought, perhaps, talk of a new site and building, when £500 at least would be called for, more especially as our preacher at M. just writes me that the local Govt is moving towards putting up all its building right in front of the only building we have. This now serves us as chapel, preachers house, boys sch., &c., as I have written in past letters. If they do build in front of us naturally we shall be turned out though we may hope the price of our property will be quite realized which will help on another place. This is about all we can say of the question now.

Rec'd Friday April 18, 1873

Later. Just now Dr. B. of Harpoot writes us very sad and very good news. Sad in that the terrible earthquake has caused such havoc in Malatia & region. Good in that he reports to us your new remittance which restores to us enough to about cover the remaining portion of the regular Estimates. God bless the Givers and you kind manipulators at the wheel who have brought us into a larger place! Would we might have at least a part of Contingents covering Moush building, &c. But how selfish we are! for His work I hope, however, the have grave doubt as to mails of late. We know native letters are taken in hand by "the powers that be", but hope ours may go free. I sent Report last week via room No. 1 (Mr Smith) in case there was an eye on regular letters. We are yet in doubt

(Confidential)

Dr Gen'l

In addition to the accompanying official communication I am going to send on a personal word. In accordance with Gen'l suggestion in Gen'l good letter Apr. 3rd we put in again for Month in Estimates, and a large sum, as he find he can't get hold of any suitable place for the full figure inserted for '93. But as it goes into contingents again we can have no hope unless some special consideration is had for such an important center, as indeed our mission as well as station, full it should have. Perhaps Gen'l will consent to let us make special appeal through the Herald, as seems the order in not a few cases of late though the old rule has appeared to cut off such.

However, old methods & policy get pretty well shaken up of late - if not with Gen'l at that end certainly in the field this side, under pressure for funds & good helpers. Perceiving such things last year my old enthusiasm for our Ann'l meetings at so much expense grows less as a means for careful regulation of proper disbursement of funds, though specially for comparing notes it may be worth all it costs. But this last, as well as the meeting held at Van two years ago, to my mind, go to show that if we are to have meetings, full representation from all the stations - of the experienced as well as inexperienced workers, should make desperate effort to be present. I'd like to "tell tales out of school" you would feel the force of what I might say I think. To be sure it seemed a hard case to have 1/3 of our

We have much pleasant intercourse with the Mr. & Mrs. Isabella Thoburn & Mrs. Parker & Miss Thoburn & Dr. Lee & Miss Lee & Dr. Lee & Miss Lee & Dr. Lee & Miss Lee

regular cut off while nearly all of Woman's contingent has granted, but was this sufficient ground for one State transferring quite heavily from said granted contingent for Woman's work to help pay a preacher's salary in a large city. Or is it quite the thing to retire on grants drawn from native agency men no longer useful that have come at least only from poverty in their village surroundings though having drawn full salaries for a course of years, and not yet passed the so-called "dead-line of fifty"? I sometimes think if old methods & careful policy still obtain perhaps a part of the duty of each meeting should be to look backward as sort of auditor of how the funds have been spent as well as forecast for the future. Transfer of funds in same dept in similar lines, has long been a desirable as for sch. or preacher's house in one village or used in another village for same object, if there is a special demand. But what would you say of a city high school overreaching its limit presented by you, and drawing over from the genl allowance for education in outside fields where there is greater demand for education, and less ability to pay for it than in these larger centers?

Your question of unmarried ladies voting or not excited a little interest in the meeting and most of young brethren were gallant in defense of the desirability of it, but quite as important to me was the fact that hardly a lady present was ready to say that she wanted to exercise the right, while many of us old men did most of us older men that they would lose rather than gain, since now they had every consideration but do feel so burdened with responsibility as they must in the other. Certainly if they voted some of us would feel that wives, too, should be permitted to vote on genl work on which she is better posted than single ladies tied up to a particular dept. But enough of this at

13

1893

Bitlis, July 4. 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Though this is the glorious old day of the western world that not a few will hinfrone to stir their patriotic fires, there is no great inducement for us dwellers in Kordistan, in carrying on school and other duties just as usual, though at 4 o'clock - just about about the time of the forenoon eloquence in your land - we are invited to sit down to an ice (of snow) cream on a little lawn at the George P. Knapp's, when I may be expected to read the Declaration of Indep., and then may be some other impromptu service, if, perchance, all our patriotic fire may not die out, or at least our children learn a little what the day means.

But my object in dropping a line to-day, as it often is then times, is to see that you have information as to our, or better, perhaps, the mork's welfare, under present environments. We see sometimes clippings, or read from American papers, that lead us to realize how different things may look to friends there from what it does here on the ground. Our bliss may be quite as much of ignorance from the isolation of our situation

as yours from the great distance between, - more especially as exaggeration becomes great. And yet we know not much of which to boast in the situation, save that we and our people yet dwell in comparative safety, and enjoy usual good health. Fear of cholera has pretty much died away. During the next ten days we expect to close our Boys Sch. graduating from the High Sch. proper three young men, two of whom may go to Harport college. The Girls Sch. after two weeks' vacation, is to open day after to-morrow at their summer quarters near to our encampment. It is a time of usual health in this region, though the whole country round about is in very great need of rain, but if it does not come soon I fear famine must result in parts of our vilayet. Prices are already 3 to 4 times the usual rate, and distress is already becoming marked in not a few places, more especially as people have neither money nor credit. Formerly they could sell drafts on friends that had gone from almost every family to Constantinople or Russia; but failing to collect such from the late excessive poverty, city merchants will no long purchase

such even at the old most ungodly high rate, so it does seem as tho starvation must come! By the way, we have just rec'd a letter from our preacher in Mosul wishing to resign his position. He has worked on faithfully there three years but seeing no immediate prospect of building he is discouraged, and it is not to be wondered at. We do so hope you may give us bright hope at once for that place. At least authorize us to take from the $75 granted by the W.B.M. to rent a place for the coming year or till the building comes, as I shall move right boldly forward even if I have to take it from bread & butter use! ~~It was $20 in all~~.
We hear of new irregularities over that way and only that our sch. closes next week I should be likely to mount my horse, and ride over to encourage our preacher & people that way. Soldiers have been sent over & grave rumors are afloat which may sound much larger if they reach you accidentally. The Lord is our keeper.
By the way, we should have written you before, and it ought, perhaps, have come into Missiva Home Letter, that the slash on our estimates cut off that for our Theol. students at Harput, so they have nothing this side of Jan 1st, & so on till

they graduate later this coming autumn or early winter. Dr. Barnum thought from what you had said you would be quite willing to make some provision if he wrote you direct. He submitted it to the meeting that gladly endorsed it, but by mistake I fear it has not been spoken of. It was £20 in all.

This much as my Fourth July speech to you as my Parliament on this month & student important matters, which at the same time it may count as a note reporting health & cheer notwithstanding I have dashed it off in very much haste.

Almost 25 years since Mrs. C. and I, as also the Ely sisters, entered the E. T. M., and may later join a group of A. Guardes of Century in the land. Comparing some figures as to the work. Our prayers are for the beloved Board & you workers at the Rooms that the God of Missions lead you tenderly in the coming annual meeting.

With kind greetings from us all —

Yours very sincerely

R. M. Cole —

Rec'd July 4, 1893

Rec'd July 31

Rec'd by your "the Christian" of London, after coming off the mail boat & Mr. Strong who also after coming the same place came from.

Bitlis, July 18/93

Dear Dr. Smith;

Perhaps you would like to have me send the inclosed through your hands for you and Dr. Strong to glance at if worth the while after which would like to have it go to the N. Y. Independent which, by the way, is our ideal paper of late rather than the one nearer to you, from my loyalty to the Board.

By the way, we had an interesting service in our little church this last Sab. when ten new members were admitted to membership by confession. Five of this number were young men and two women from the class just graduated out of our

Greetings daily, as we have not extra cities enough.

H. M. C.

Boys High Sch., and who may go to Apt College.
We do hope this may be the beginning of better times for our church here & work. We dwell in safety, having ourselves as a family just moved up to encampment though the others moved up sometime since. I sent a note to Dr. Strong through our Franklin hands Auburndale, in which I spoke somewhat openly on the status quo. Things are more hopeful in two parts of our field and another engagement among the wilds with several inhuman deaths. Our Govr with commendable promptness put a region so of mouth under siege and people there will likely starve. We will drop frequent briefs. So you may know we are in safety; and we really see things about us moving on about as usual, tho the future is in His hand. All in usual health & would join in greetings

Sincerely Yr R. M. Cecil

Rev. Dr. Fitch
Corresponding Secretary
Baptist Missionary Union
Boston
Express the Boston Auxiliary

Rev. R. M. Cole 360
Bitlis Turkey Dec. 3
Received Jan. 22, '93
Barnum Emporium
Bridgeport Conn.
Parkes to
Silkey ans.

ent at hand since writing you my
s note that you are asking after
blication of missionaries, & their
such. I am sorry to say that
iti circle has done nothing in
s line aside from writing for
rriodicals. You may remember
spoke with you in America a-
ut writing an introduction to
book I hoped to get out under
me such title as Foreign mis-
ionary Life under Fire, Lots Sieg
Erzroum & Famine Relief. But
oing among the churches as much
s I did in connection with other
ork I was not able to complete it
ut left the unfinished manuscript
ith my son in Amherst, who by the
ay, in copying some I had left in
ial became much interested. But
e it remains, and as things so in this

land we are glad if even common letters reach the gainsayer, to say nothing of manuscripts. Things are more quiet over Moush way. The vali has pushed on east to Boulanouk region where has been fighting among the Kouds with a score or so of deaths. He left the defiant region & xns so. of Moush under siege, and likely starvation may end their hitherto living death of novel type. In the affray ten of them are killed but more than 200 of the wilds. Anarchy is quite largely the order in the provinces, tho in this city our life passes on about the same. If we lie on a volcano we do not know it so far as appearances go much a. bove other times. But it is pitiful to listen to the tales of peasants that flee the provinces to eke out here a miserable existence by a little work if they can find any but more of begging from door to door. One tells how in the regions south of us the wilds killed both his father & brother, but instead of their being arrested he is kept a long time in Zinkey's hondescript prison because he will not give the names of the murderers when to do so would cost him and all the rest of his relatives their life! But what use in harrowing you with rehearsals even in this sort of crowded, private way. Eng. however has much to answer for. Miss Mary & I spent Sab. at our large outstation Kharputig village of 400 houses. Had Com^n & bapt^s with a crowded house. The previous Sab. he had Com^n in this city & ten received to ch. 9 young men. But I may refer to these things again in a more presentable shape, but have reason for this non-official dress. We are risking life at usual encampment for the sake of health. We fear exaggerated report

Bitlis, Aug. 16. 1893

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

I am at hand acknowledging receipt of my letter on Lady Mission to you. There is much change in the status quo of things since I wrote last. Has been no rain and prospect for harvest poor, while Dersim may and in a few places in the plain east locusts have done not a little harm. The province south of Mosul still held under sort of siege and xns there will be starved in complete subjection albeit the only attempted self defense against the Kouras & the latter are set on by the powers that be so they might bring in militia on plea that xns are in rebellion, and in this particular region we found some so-called seditious persons, though the testify that the only object is to arouse the people to self defense. Some of them are in our B. prison here & I have been told by those who heard their testimony. But this rule of setting on the Kouras & then govt. soldiers coming in, followed by charge on xns of rebellion, is entered upon in other places where there is no charge to say on any leaders to arouse the people. Blackmail, plunder & outrage so common as to make anarchy in not a few places. This gives a general idea though I might give more particulars if it were prudent. As it is I send this not as an official letter, as indeed it is not, but though Mr. Smith's letter, hoping it may stand a better chance to arrive. Five hours distant from here the sheep of the village taken

by the wilds (Kurds) In another near village a wild attempts to carry off by force a Xn girl to be his wife. She withstood him, seizing his hand when with his dagger he attempted to kill her. She called to the villagers, near enough to hear and when they arrived rather than be foiled in his attempt drew his revolver & shot her dead then & there! Some are turning moslem, some go crazy at the oppression. I am just starting on a tour to eastern part of our field - going under gov^t escort, as our helpers and poor people that may do need encouragement for anarchy is pretty complete that way. Mr. G. P. Knapp thinks of starting out to meet his sister, Miss Grace, who we suppose must have left you the 5th inst, though he waits for news from her. We'll probably leave next week after my return. Are all in usual health save two of our children that strange to say seem quite poorly from malaria, as also some of the girls in the Ely's Sch. that has summer quarters at the same encamptment with us. We had hoped for better health there, but want of suitable quarters, I suppose accounts for much of it as the mountain air ought to improve them, while that in the city is bad. Excuse this hasty note as a personal not official, as you will want to know how it is faring with us these times in the land.

Yours very truly

R. M. Cole

Received Oct 3 Nov. 18.

Recommendation Prevalence of malaria in Urmi. Its influence on children. Its mortality

Rev. Jas Smith Sen. has been employed from the Mission Society

Lords Day Oct. 1893

Rev. Jas Smith Sen. has been employed from the Mission Society

Rev. Jas Smith Jr. is now in charge of the Mission at Nadiya

See by enclosed Pamphlet what a great work God has wrought in a few years, & what a number of children & Young people have been in the city.

R. M. Lord.

Having put in two tours of late I purposed giving you a glance of the journeys and experiences before setting out on another, and have really written a part of a letter in that line; but as matters have turned I must needs set out for a visit Monsh way, and must drop it for some days, perhaps referring to this 3d tour as well then. But before setting out I wished to drop you a word at least as looking to distress already beginning in these parts respecting breadstuffs. The wheat crop was not more than ½ yield this year, while in Monsh region, as well as in a few villages in the large plain east, the locusts did much harm. But this is not all. Beginning from the gubernatorial prefecture along down in the official ranks there is a regular combination arrangement to rain up prices — a sort of wheat syndicate — which is introducing such a state of things as otherwise would not have been realized. Think of prices now being 7 - 8 times what it would be in common times! We have just put in some for our schools at such a price. It is higher than

was the price at this date 13 years ago when actual famine was abroad in the region. Though snows are not yet upon us, but when winter begins death must stare us in the face. We know it is hard times in America, and we have been slow to make an appeal on that account. But our hearts bleed & our eyes fill as we face up to the winter before us, and we know not what to do. It is so late now, and so very difficult to get hold of wheat even at this exorbitant price that we tremble to think what must result before much could reach us even if friends in America were in condition to come to the rescue at once. We have appealed to Mr. Peet who was able to remit only £25 of what he happened to have in hand for this object, and we have invested it in wheat. It does seem so sad to think we need to come to you with a plea for bread for these poor ones, and especially considering how but for scheming ones things would not have come to this pass. You will be able to "read between the lines". We wait anxiously to hear the outcome of the Worcester meeting. As yet we have decided on no extra teachers for the villages for the winter as other years. Thanks for your kind words of sympathy of Sept. 22d. The work under pres. ent environments does sit light on us, but we try to roll it off on the Burden bearer, trusting also that

Bitlis, Oct. 31, 1893.
Rec'd Dec. 15.

Dublin, Feb. 21 1882

Bitlis, Oct. 25. 1898

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Back from Ann.l meeting at Worcester your Com.ee will have passed upon our Estimates ere this, though fortunately - or otherwise - we know not the result, as is also the case respecting the success of said meeting. We will trust that a hat of bliss we have in present hopefulness is not to be dispelled when full intelligence may reach us. This much we do know - that we, too, have often talked it over with Him who is the God of Missions - our Circle coming together & giving special prominence to the 28th ult. as per late Mission meeting suggestion.

We do so long to hear you have been able to devise liberal things for us so we may soon send out our usual winter teachers - the time for such being already passed. But I had in mind to give you a glimpse of two of my late tours, together with a word as to the status quo of things in our field at the present time.

My peregrinations in the vilayet took me near to both its northern & south-eastern limits and in many respects afforded good opportunities for contrast. The region lying due north on for three days distance, impresses one with vastness & flatness for the most part, while that to the south abounds in huge elevations of the grand old Taurus mts. having two small plains

anwhiched in between. Denizens of this Bitlis
orge lost among everlasting hills, naturally feel like
xpanding their lungs anew, and imbibing sweet air without
t or hindrance, as passing up over the Kahwan table.
nd three hours away they soon drop down along the shore
f lake Van. This is a charming sheet of water stretch-
ing away north-eastward more than three-score miles,
s southern shore being indented with many bays and
ead lands that keep ceaseless watch over beautiful scenery.
hile at the northern corner old mount Sipan looms
roudly up till its summit, like that of superior old
Ararat 100 miles away, is lost in the eternal snows.
he lake in places along its western & southern shore
mirrors back clumps of beautiful trees & cheery shrubbery,
while many of the finny tribe disport themselves in its
placid waters near mouths of brooks & streamlets - con-
stituting a tempting sight to would-be sportsmen. Akhlat,
r Hullat, as Armenians call it (probably from the Greek
ord for sea) is the chief place for the fisherman's haul. It has
ith a large village whose houses are well nigh lost
amid the bowery of beautiful trees. Here was ensconced our
vali pasha and some other officials taking their outing
on a charming slope fronting the sea.
We hardly need say that great irregularities prevail on every
hand & most of all in the Boulanouk & Moush plains.
Sheep & cattle driven off at noon-day by fearless ma-

raiders almost in the face & eyes of Govt. police and no redress had! But why should I harrow your feelings too much with rehearsals that have no end! There is a God who knows it all & if He allows it where we? Our people & others here & there were only too glad for the preached Word, feeling that in God & His word was their only comfort. Death had removed our chief man and pillar of the work in Purkhous, Mikael by name since we were last there. There is good evidence that the change for him was unspeakable ~~everlasting~~ gain.

Shekhaghoub has its preacher who teaches also, and rather an interesting people though in direful straits this year. Added to their poverty & failure in crops Kourdish tyranny seems crushing the life out of them. One of our people didn't dare keep his own daughter of rather attractive face, and who had taken on some polish in the B. M. Holyoke Seminary, in his home where Kourds might see her as they came & went - since her the father was village barber - lest they set on foot to kidnap her. Another of our people had his supply of butter stolen, & though he knew who took it dare not enter complaint, or his life might be the forfeit! But pen would tire on such rehearsals. This and not a few other villages around are in trepidation from self-styled higher Kourds who hold themselves to be chiefs of creation - lording it over all in despicable ways. Seems to me we used to read in the classics "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." The Central Govt. at Constle has set up these same Kourdish chieftains to constitute recruiting offi-

cers for the army's Kourdish reserves, but such jealousy has arisen among them as to "who shall be greatest" that actual battles have taken place and scores been killed! An officer of the regular soldiers predicted to one of our friends that as per his judgment this class of reserves might develop into another set of Janizaries for the government to deal with.

In Mousch region he found things even worse, since locusts had done much more harm to the barley crop, so that it will be impossible for not a few villages to keep the wolf from the door. Hundreds if not thousands are fugitives from their home & province in search of bread - some begging from door to door in Diarbekir region. Ten families have fled from our Prot. village, Havadorik, alone. I got the local lieutenant governor to promise to wait on this village for some of their taxes, & to seek an adjustment of some other irregularities, but fear from past experience it will amount to little. One object he had in visiting this village was to locate their new preacher, just graduated from Harpoot Seminary, & former graduate of our Bitlis High Sch. & his wife also graduate from the B. Mt. Holyoke Seminary. He introduced them to this terribly poor people whose delegation walked down the mountain side to give them a cordial welcome.

After having important meetings with the church and people, and preaching to them Sunday morning, I rode five miles to hold a service at another village. After I left the ubiquitous Turkish zaptieh pounced upon & beat

two of our people - one of them deacon of the church - because they could, in their & their, on God's holy day, produce a certain amount of taxes. These 300 harpies extort from $15-20 worth of barley, hay, &c for their horses, to say nothing of 30 chickens, butter, eggs & the like, in only 8 days, which would take the villager at least four months to earn at their low rate of wages. The way they rummage the houses, empty, tip over & break some dishes, beat the inmates - obliging all to serve them as if most menial slaves! But enough of this.

I must hasten if I would touch on other parts of my four tours of varying length put in in a little more than two months. Only that the interim between was so short I should have reported them in parts; but though I may send it on together, perhaps you can read it piecemeal so as not to be over satiated.

I dropped you just a note respecting portending famine. Owing to an open, very favorable season thus far price of wheat has not gone up very much the last month - it still standing at 7-8 times plus. Nor not much come up from the south, where it is more plenty it must have gone up much more in price. I inclosed to you a sample of such bread as some are trying to subsist on even in this city while scores of others are forced to suck their morsels by begging from door to door. But in the villages it is much worse, though we shrink from investigating as to truth of rumors of deaths, and

and as to mothers casting down their young children at other doors lest they die of starvation. Typhus, too, the concomitant of famine is prevailing in mount ce-
tion. We are much rejoiced that Mr. Peel has been able to remit us £125 relief, that he have invested and given out a little on the sly lest they throng upon us. One village he touched at not 15 miles from B. City made such an impression on me as haunts me still. Nearly 100 families hungry and thirsty - the locust have devoured the meager harvest. They are on the high tableland that has no springs near by nor water for irrigation. In utter despe-
ration they are about migrating to Russia or some other province to beg their bread when our pasha turned them back with promises that have all the Turkey tinge about them! He should also help in rebuilding their aquaduct that the rains had carried away. But nothing realized the poor creatures come to our city bakeries begging or sell whatever they have for some paltry sum to take out to their families bread day by day, but what can they do when cold & deep snows so close up the roads as to render them impassable for a week or two at a time! Poor woman, too, may be seen wending her way to the mountain side nearly a mile away bringing heavy jugs of water - barefoot over the frozen ground hiding among the rocks, meanwhile, if an approaching traveler appears like the dreaded Kourd. It not near here that an attractive girl of the next village, where he passed the night, was deliberately shot down at noonday, because she dared re-
sist a young Kourd who attempted to take her off by force to be his wife! He saw her sister and other friends at the village and general sadness seemed to pervade all. Nothing had been done by Gov.t to ferret out the culprit.

R. M. Cole.

But backward goes the pendulum, and we find ourselves away back the Bitlis Center - hardly stopping - about as far to the south-east, at Herrat village in the Namaran region, or Marmadank, as Armenians call it - and only some four hours from the Botan river. Now much of interest he might relate of these hitherto non-explored regions only that my letter seems assuming such proportions! Of Khizan especially that is the sort of Siberia of these parts so far as close contact with the outside world is concerned. Of its reputed demigod sheikh whose very name, the Kourds might tell us, should be all written out in capital letters. Why, long-faced old religionists near his prison-like mansion shouted out at us as though he had committed the unpardonable sin because we did n't at once dismount in approaching the place of interment of other sheikhs in the family line. Miles about on hilltops in various bridle paths (and there are no built roads) may be seen piles of stones modern devotees have thrown up as memorials of the first glimpse they caught of this so holy a place. Beyond and to the eastward is the native region of my attendant, one of our High Sch. teachers, as also one of its rather recent graduates. He told me how his sister came from her mountain region to the city to visit him some years since. She was shown bedding upon the floor with which facing about the edge of the quilt, "What" she said "do you expect me to sleep in that badanks!" (coming-sheet for burial!) Bedding proper, like books ▽

Schools, is almost a thing unknown. Their Kourdish rugs
ving their sole covering for the night, the hard trodden
arth for bed of down beneath, and every rag of their gar-
ments worn by day to constitute the pillow.
Readers are so very few and far between that sometimes
parties having letters up from friends at the capital
must needs wander up & down among villages a day
r two to find some one to unlock their precious contents.
Formerly plunder & murder were most common, and we
passed something like a score of stone mounds, thrown to-
gether one by one at the hands of passers by as testimony
f these sad events. But owing to the regime of rather
model Caimakam, at present life & property have more
significance. We passed through quite an extension
orest of filbert bushes that were just being despoiled
f their rich harvest by wild nomadic Kourds. In other
places were wild blackberries, pears, apples, grapes, &c.
n such abundance and with no owners, that again
man was tempted to eat, and so beguiled into delays by
the roadside. In one place we took a cooling draught from
ne of the most wonderful ebullition of waters I ever saw.
t comes to the light from beneath a massive ledge of old
aurus mountain. Many a fight has taken place among the
illages over this water supply equal to the demand of three
r four native grist mills. Parties in different sections
ished to turn it in their direction. Once on a time still
nother conflict was about to begin when, as Providence

would have it, a great stone broke loose from the mountain side above, and came down to make such a significant division as settled the question once for all.

Our objective point in this tour was Herrat village, and to encourage one of our Protestant families - administering the ordinances to this little patriarchal church whose two members are the father and mother. For thirty years they had lived in our Prot. village of Aghagh, Akhlat region, & joined the ch. there. Their children were all born there, save one, and are now so homesick in the new wilds where every one's "hand seems against his neighbor." The Gregorians of the little village had persecuted them, claiming that as Protes they were outlaws, having neither baptism nor communion, and were about kicking them out. But when they saw that the bodvelly had taken the trouble to come all this distance to visit them, and administer the ordinances they changed their tone, and now treat them kindly. But an anomalous, very unique service was that in a darken closure from a corner of the stable. Juice expressed from wild grapes & most primitive style of village bread constituted the elements which were in plainest dark earthen dishes on the dirt floor before us - no chair no table. With such dismal surroundings and amid stable odors we impress the seal of the covenant upon little rag-covered babe Abraham, and invited his parents to commemorate the dying love of our risen Lord. Mutual tears & choking voice characterized this strange service.

8

What to say and how to cheer them amid such surroundings was what made the lump come in the throat. But he had done what he could for the poor ones - taking a longer time and a so much harder journey to reach them than would Boston people to go clear to the White City for the Fair! So much for pastoral work in Turkey.

DEC. 19th Sad offices have been ours since I began this letter. It becomes my painful duty to report the heaviest necrology for our schools that I have known for any part of Turkey thus 25 years. Two of our most promising boys of the highest class in our Bitlis High Sch. and one of the teachers (my attendant referred to in the above letter) cut down in a short 9 days of typho-malarial fever. The teacher was convalescing but apparently indiscretion in diet brought on a relapse and he died at the end of a month from first attack. Great responsibility, no little service and exposure turned on me as having had more experience in the sick room & with medicines, - all the more as a sort of panic seized scholars teachers & people lest they take this disease that so-called doctors, attending the patients part of the time, advertised as very contagious.

A third boy also had the disease, but is now so far convalescing that we trust all will be well, and that no further inroads into our midst will be made by this fell disease. Later I may refer again to this sad affair as having important bearing on the ~~importance~~ need of our having a missionary physician here not only for our now quite large circle but for the schools & city so much in need of such a comfort. - Mr. G. P. Knapp and Miss Mary Ely are expected in from a brief tour to-morrow. Our circle are in usual health. Yours very sincerely R. M. Cole.

Bitlis, Oct. 25, 1893.
Rec'd Jan. 7.

Confidential

not from cows sick
highly
contagious
Dec. 5th Came to Sister Dorothy's
Mary Quincy
Confidential
Dear Friends
Brother Sister
Nephews
Nieces
Sister Dorothy
Brother Sam.
Dear Friends
Brother Sister
Nephews
Nieces
Dear Friends
Brother Sister
Nephews
Nieces
Dear Friends
Brother Sister
Nephews
Nieces

suffering from acclimation or probably typho-malar
fever, which our children also had at our encampment
of which our students died, it being made worse I fear by
the two Drs.—municipal & military—that attended them some of
the time by request of their friends. We have taken another theory
since their death with so much less med^n than they gave
leaving it almost wholly to Nature & good care, with nourishment.
He is all about the room now & seems out of danger.
Miss Grace is all right now, & naturally is much comfort
to her aged parents. I have spoken thus frankly to you for fear
you might not hear particulars, but you will, perhaps, not write
to my report in a reply, save in confidence. I passed
them your last letter to read & trust they will take your hint
to their writing more. The rest of the circle are in usual health.
I may send with this what I wrote on "Programme for
coming Ann^l meeting" for you to read, following which you might
please post to our son N. Frank Cole, Auburndale, Mass.
who will keep it for me. I write you frankly of need felt by some
of us—of more experience in our last Mission meeting. Good old principles
especially as looking to self support, go hand of course. Still we are
in danger of drifting too far. When I see pupils educated from funds
gathered by special appeals to U. S. Sch^s & other places—such as we
study in Sch^s of their provinces, and their parents pay their bills
I naturally think what use of Mission action? This such thing
does sap the treasury at home not a little. These long columns of figures
like a 3 or 4 thousand dol. chapel at Aintab, contributions we have
other special lines, divert funds, & so the general work drags.
We found our Station in debt on getting back from U. S. Mis.—C
has been interesting her friends to send money to square a debt
for a building that had been purchased; but this principle he and
mit is bad though funds are still being drawn for boarders by other
hinted above. Then again certain so magnify their station centers that
they need drain from outside work to supply them. Perhaps you could in
way recall them the Mission principles in working us—seeing that pupils study in the

Bitlis, Jan. 22. 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

I have made up the weight of one letter already and post by itself, while I write more here, since now in addition to the doubt thrown in your letter that I have acknowledged, there now comes the Appropriations proper through the stated Clerk of Mission and lo, what I had feared & almost expected from the outlook at that end of the line another cut in our Estimates! Not only have we no Grants in Aid or Contingents for male defic, but upwards of £48 is taken from our regular work proper - Evangelistic & Educational.

Of course it can do no good to explode, berate the Com^ee or scold our Secretaries. We know they have been nice in that they take the situation as it is, and are seeking to avoid debts rolling up in the future. We also realize it is hard times in native land, which gives us less heart to scold the churches, knowing also that their calls for a "foreign-home work" in the land increase rapidly, as late statistics of the Home Soc. show very clearly for Mass. even. - And yet to turn eyes in on our environments here in Turkey we get little to encourage. Poverty most alarming is now supple-

mented by a famine in the land. We have to admit that even the small proportion put on the people of our field the last few years has seldom been paid in full - in some cases poor helpers have been on salaries lower in proportion than in any of the stations - being left in the lurch, which ought not so to be, and yet for us to assume it - paying from funds in hand for that particular dept - is perhaps even worse policy. But for such a year as this even such small contributions will be very much less, and already our Domestic Missionary Soc. organized years since, and co-operating with us to the extent of 1/10 expenses, has now nearly an empty treasury. In parts of our field, especially Mooshi way, some are, apparently, dying of starvation, while others are seeking to subsist on such so-called food as bran of flax-seed (after the oil is expressed) the husk kind of millet and other vile substances - so that a very malignant kind of typhus and other diseases are coming in to complete the ghastly work of this living-death. Likely I shall drop a line from Mooshi on this phase of things, as am just starting for that place. Thanks for the sympathy you express at our situation with us, and for your suggestion that

we put before you an appeal for help if it seems called for. The truth is the whole land though is in such a poor, dying state that we hardly know where to begin or when to end. Whos so far become an old story in famine & poverty lines that we almost tire of rehearsing it, more especially as we fear such will be the case with those who so constantly read of such & are called upon for help. Mr. Peel has been able to send us up £200 in all, for this object, of funds he seems to have had in hand, and we are making as good use as we can of this drop amid old ocean of necessities.
This much as my snap shot on the dark outlook with us; and to my mind the situation, both here and at your end, magnifies the importance of some such principles as I have brought out in the paper, a copy of which I took the liberty to send you in my other package. Though we may not raise any more money here yet we must study self help lines in every possible way. In a small way we have tried the way of letting certain villages provide the commonest sch. for themselves the teacher being of their own number and getting very slight help from them. One sch. was taught by a young man, member of the church but of very meager education, though sufficient

for the low educational demand. It cost our treasury nothing - their contributions covering the bonus we pledged for the Spring if his work proved satisfactory. But last winter he put a full-pledged graduate of our High Sch. then at some 60 pts. expense, but realized no marked difference in the success.

But I need not enlarge in this line, since the paper will render pretty evident where Cole stands on these points. But before closing I want to refer to the question of a physician for our Station, as I spoke of doing in a past letter. I then thought of Dr. Raynold, and as a Station he had began to move in that direction when lo the sad news comes from Oan that young Mr. Greene is so far broken down in health that the doctors there say he must take a period of rest off, and so "Dr. R. ~~will~~ naturally," as they write us, "cant be spared." It only remains for you good people to look well thro' the second lady teacher he asked for at the Apl meeting, be forth coming, and that she be a doctor without fail. Heaven only knows the strain that rested on Cole especially during late trials in our circle and sickness & deaths in our Sch. as the one supposed to be more experienced in the sick room & better posted in medicine. So much for this appeal.

We are very sorry that the Mounsh building must yet poise as an apex though. the W. B. has so generously supplied their contingent in other lines com. In view of this perhaps he had better use the £500 in hand for purchase of the Beys property here in Bitlis to use in Mounsh, and he may do subscrip at our coming meeting at Mardin. Meanwhile Miss Mary Ely and her assistant the teacher for M. Sch. - accompany me there where we have no accommodations for ourselves or the school. Yours very sincerely R. M. Cole.

Bitlis, Jan. 22, 1894
Filed Mar. 5

Bitlis, April 9, 1894

866

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith: As fortune would have it the natural thing for me at this writing is to discourse again somewhat on tours at the risk of seeming monotonous to you, since the demands of the work proper, as well as famine relief, have called me to the outside field in two other tours since I wrote you early in Jan. In writing Constl of certain important observations in the tour through a registered letter, I inclosed a copy to be forwarded to you. There is so much we often feel to say with all the indignation of our righteous souls, still hung as high as such may be in the face of xn nations it seems to take little effect. We sometimes exclaim "O Lord how long." We must await His time & methods - standing by to see what He has in store for such a sin-cursed, God-forsaken land. But as you rightly divine in your letter before me of Feb. 8th the condition of things does bear upon the workers, and never in the history of missions have those in Turkey stood in such unspeakable need of your prayers at home that we may as you hint, be richly furnished for this ministry of consolation" in behalf of our poor, disheartened, most disconsolate people amid these times. When we cant speak out as we could wish we beg you to wait on us in glances "between the lines", or by such suggestive references as Amos 5:10-13 emphasizing the last as the prudent part, with a glance at Ps. 26:9-10, not omitting Hab. 1:2-4 & 13-14, without overlooking also Jer. 22:13-17 &c, for is not the good old Book rich in imagery of the country of its birth?

My first tour was Monah way in company with Miss Mary Ely and one of their graduates returning from a visit home to take up her work as teacher of girls' sch. in M. city. "So far as the people are concerned there are open & willing ears for the gospel message, though they are so terrorized by the situation that little takes root. I was at a home of one of our people in Verkewank village 1½ hours from Monah. The head of it died sometime since of cholera en route to Coniale, & I dropped in to give a word of comfort. Many from the village flocked in to see & hear something new, as is the custom of the men who leave their cold, cheerless homes - family & all - to cluster in the warm oda (guest-house in corner of the stable). All at once comes in a regimental officer, who sets to driving them all out with such flourishes of his stick as indicated what they would have felt had it not been present. "What are you doing here"? "Who is this" - bringing up in front of me. On his questions as to whether he was having some decidedly muting, I answered him pretty squarely as to who I was and my office, referring him to his gov^r whose road paper was in my pocket, upon which he subsided so far as I was concerned, though the insults & abuse for the people here but begun. But why rehearse cases since the pen would tire & tax you unkindly". Two in the village had paid the forfeit for so-called "dearth" in breadstuffs - the word famine being restricted from use. One of them our helper buried, though not of our people, since her friends, like that other one "passed by on the other side" fully conscious no fees for his service could come from a place dominated by the "wolf". The local gov^t here has, to my mind, more fittingly grasped the sit-

nation than that of B. though second to it - the meterserrif being a venerable old man of somewhat scrupulous conscientious tendency. Though citizens have been written down to help the poor & in ways to indicate there has no escape, yet as at B. a forced lottery whatever one's principles, has not inaugurated. The largest contributor, as per list published by the B. Sor^t organ, has one of the subject race, & over £10. But such movements are too meager & hardly to cover the multitudes of the present. It was painful to see the crowds stand beneath a sort of pigeon hole at bakeries (for owners dare not open the regular shutters) clamoring for bread, money in hand, but sometimes having to wait hours to secure the pittance, if indeed amid the rabble both it and the bit of money were not snatched from their hands! Scores are paying the penality of such times as these, while some are from living on such vile, worthless rubbish as introduces disease that suffers little delay in the final result. But sickening as is the scene he need not harrow you with rehearsals, only assuring you that he and our efficient Gospel helpers, are doing all in can here & in other parts of the field to stay the work of death.

The oft repeated question - suitable buildings for M. city - I must touch upon again here, since now in place of purchase of a new, we are ~~now~~ forced to enter upon repairs of a chief wall of the old building already in hand, which you see mid-way in the picture on P. 356 of last Sept. Herald, though about 1/4 from right of the picture as it faces you, having gardens in front & on right side, since it has so cracked as to be in danger of falling & bringing the whole structure down with it. We are now moving towards purchasing

a patch from the garden at its right, and belonging to the long large Turkish house in the rear, so he may run out an L at the right, affording a small room below & above, as also give the right of opening a window on the sunny side of the present building. So much this he have for the present, with the endorsement of the ladies, drawn on the £75 of N.B. (and what are we poor "victims" of the male deft supposed to have in this line!) Since this building serves not only the teacher of girls' Sch. but preacher's wife, another B. Mt. Hol. graduate also doing no little work for woman - if that Soc. is hair-splitting for facts! I may say in passing that in the building process he hope to employ some of the able bodied poor that come for bread, so they may earn their bread at least by some "sweat of the brow."

But I must not dwell on matters of this province save to state that our return to N.B. over a distance of 15 hours good summer travel or less than one of your R.R. hours of the West, took us 12 whole days affording such weird experiences from long delays among Kowas here & there, clambering through snows over unbroken roads as would present a chapter somewhat thrilling, but not to be dwelt on here.

After a brief stay at home whence they had asked our M. preacher by telegraph "What had become of us," I set out for Boulanouk plain - the northern part of our field. Here, as in Kowa region, he did what he could in spiritual lines holding special meetings, attending to the church ordinances, & though no little time spent to "serving tables" - planning how famished bodies, as well as spirits, might be fed, listening to tales of woe with rather futile hopes as to what he might do to appease them.

though we learned of no actual deaths from starvation still we saw enough to convince us that such might be near. Cattle were dying for want of fodder. I saw a great buffalo being butchered whose price was only 255 rs. just what the skin would sell for in Bitti's market - the meat being clear gain to the purchaser, though the former owner had no fodder to be cowed keep it. Civic conditions in this province are worst of the worse - the thick end of the wedge starting from high places, as is only too true the vilayet through, especially here and in B. Leading Kowdish beys, some of whom pose as officers of rank among reserves openly avow theirs it is to plunder the subject ones rather than heads of Govt. depts, since under former feudal times their families had recognized ownership in such human chattel. And already this doctrine was being put in practice at the hands of their accessories, who had been prowling about the houses - taking things by force, thrusting themselves in among the women suspiciously. Feeling it useless to appeal when reaction would be so disastrous, in their desperation the villagers got into a wrangle of words with the vile wretches that ended in clubs. Our preacher & a leading Prot. rushed in to stay matters, but in place of gratitude on the part of the miscreants they go away and report to their agha in his village that the "Prot teacher also struck them two blows", and just what will follow we know not.
Such irregularities & blackmail are almost of daily occurrence. Brazen-faced ones entering bids as to what absolution may be by parties near at hand, though hinting (what the incarcerated ones know only too well) how much dearer it will be for them if they are sent on to B. In this way scores, yes hundreds of pounds are drown from poor villagers now writhing in the jaws of a famine that might have been largely avoided.
But hastening on without treating of relief measures here, too, for desperate cases, or dwelling on hardships of the cir. Unit rider on runners, though really floundering on foot in

snow, rain & sleet – once till near midnight, having gained the reputation through reports that reached home, of having passed this terrible night upon the open plain – I must set you down in Bitlis again lest my letter be too long. Mailing this letter to you I must take my place at the wheel in distributing bread to the more than 200 families that come pinched to our doors. Just as we were reluctantly coming to the conclusion this last Friday that we must turn the poor ones away from a part of their poltry allowance came Mr. Peet's telegram announcing another £50 to replenish our depleted funds. God bless donors to such heart stirring objects! Knowing the stress at your end & how chronic such conditions are in this impoverished, disorganized land, we were loth to make appeals till it become too late to save not a few lives.

Our circle are in usual health. Rest assured we look out that they know as to your limits about their writing. If you like I might write less, and see if they would do more in this line. We are all very sorry you could give us nothing more hopeful as to addition to our appr.ns. These famine times every body and everything almost is in debt, and of course we hope to make extra allowance to some of our helpers. Never grant a twilight dawn from the present so deeply felt darkness. Our hearts are all the more saddened since the chief man of our Cong. & ch. one of the first members, a member of the gov.t medjlis has just been arrested, and part of his money bags put under seal. Though he is out on bail he knows not as to the future, though the only thing charged thus far is that he is in correspondence with Triste!! How often I bless God that I am an American subject, and yet in coming into town the other day I, as was Mr. G. P. K. previously, treated very much like a nation in the way they rummaged my things, pied books & papers. We shall see what the gov.t says as to this, when we may report later. In view of the status quo we are having no meeting of our Domestic Miss'y &c. whose treasury is empty anyway. Cholera is no farther off than Mashgerd – seven days – Considering all these things it is a question as to whether as a mission we should come together at Marsh. Mr. Allen likely will not be able to leave all those ladies alone at Van while I can not get away from Bonnie & their work, so ought both Mr. G. P. and I to be away so long considering how poorly his father especially is. With cordial greetings from us and "the churches in Asia". Yours &c R. M. Cole.

Bitlis April 9, 1894

Bitlis, Turkey, May 22/94.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

As nothing seems to go from our station these two posts I will dash off a few lines at least, lest you feel anxious as to our welfare. The truth of it is we are practically under a siege for nearly six weeks, so far as the outside world was concerned, though we had more or less communication with our outstations. There being no posts all sorts of rumors were afloat as to what was on the tapis, some having it that the "Bear" was to walk in and; though it has not all blown over yet, still we are able now to understand pretty well whence & wherefore all such, and discount it accordingly. All such works harm then times when disease fomites stalks abroad in most of our field. Forty four had died of such in one village on Moush plain some weeks since, while many others had met with a similar fate in other villages. None can give accurate though such sad statistics as the present should supply. Of our more than 300,000 inhabitants in this vilayet upwards of one half are lacking their daily bread, while thousands are on the brink of starvation, and scores already passed away. Refugees are crowding upon us, there being almost a constant tramp into our court for something to eat. Some were so far gone that they could not talk as they stumbled along.

Some tell the pitiful story of how some of their children have died of starvation, while others are wandering about on streets seeking almost in vain to secure a morsel from door to door. These times when people of town are, many of them, too near to a similar state. The darkest thing of it all is to feel that most of this might not have been only for Ps. 26:10 being put forward by the highest of powers that are closely followed by others all along the line from prison guard up. There is such blackmail abroad as the "unspeakable" has seldom met going, - even the fact of a bible or test. sometimes acting as the ostensible offender. Blessed is nothing & to hard nothing for that matter, seems the demand of these times & surroundings. Some of our people have felt so intimidated that copies of God's word as well as other most harmless bks are begged to be secreted, & in a few cases they have been committed to the flames even. How long O Lord must such injustice prevail! So effect sales of their bks may be to cast a snare about unwary villagers feet. One is recently incarcerated with his three bks like shot as a boy I struggled to purchase with my own earnings, - a bible, Hist. & singing bk. Scores in this city have been in similar state and among them our chief men who though not confined had his house overhauled, papers bks, &c. taken into custody. What is to be the outcome of all such we know not. The latest revelation for us is that for some unaccountable reason nearly six weeks passed by - a sort of siege - & we had no news from the outside

moved till six Posts came all of them at once and which two-bushel-bag full of mail matter for our side came from dated March 29th & Apr. 3d. After about a week came two other Posts together in one of which was one letter from our son in N. Y. City that came through in just a month Apr. 12th to May 12th. The letters by this last arrival had been opened, at least many of them. We shall complain to the posta at such treatment, but whether any good comes of it is another thing.

Many thanks for the items as to what he have for cloth to cut our Evangelical & Educational garments off for '95, though I am glad to note that there seems indication of how your sympathy went out more for the individual departments than for the collection amt. which summed up $1000 less (£9,000) than the the three items make. We make up our Estimates on the items which leads us to $20,000 for a sum good enough for 1000 more. Never was the outlook of things for the land & work so very dark in our day as now, and if prudence dictated I should write much plainer, but Amos 5:13 is in point. I put this in a cramped & hasty hand from a purpose as we are in doubt as to how letters are treated if ready readers are to be found. But this much with what you can put between the lines will give you some clew to the situation.

If it be any object to keep humanity alive we need thousands of liras in place of the few hundred only we have rec'd. Some has reached me from Eng. through an appeal

that way. I have felt loth to strike out too boldly in America knowing how hard it was for your friends to secure anywhere near what we need for the work proper. But the truth of it is we are worse off by far in this village than the people in any though such thrilling appeals have been going out so long. Since distress began there last year that much more flows thither as well as wheat from every quarter - from Persia & Russia even. But almost nothing has been done for food or seed this way and the outlook is most terrible indeed. From three other centers besides Bitlis city we are doing what we can to save life, but considering the little we have in hand we must needs deal it out by spoonfuls as it were. Now perhaps are the grateful prayers put up for the benefactors. "You have saved my family's life," "and for you my children would die." &c.

The coming Monday Mr. G. P. Knapp expects to leave for the Ord. mission, but considering the year, as well as how very poorly his father is probably no other will go. Mr. G. C. gives unmistakable evidence of softening of the brain and is in danger of going of apoplexy anytime. Has had dangerous sinking turns of late when I of more experience & medical knowledge have been called over suddenly. I speak of this not that it is best perhaps to refer to it in writing them ~~as we~~ but so that you may not think it strange that I if not some others do not go to the meeting, and so you may foresee what must be imminent ere another year has passed away.

I may be able to forward Col. view the coming week though the less we have to do with such figures this year the better. Letters of this

Bitlis, May 22-1894.

Rec'd June 25.

Bitlis, July 4. 1894

Rev. Judson Smith D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

If I may not seem very loyal to the country we represent in writing a letter upon this date let it count as allegiance to our beloved Board for sure it is there is not much temptation to show one's selfishness in a land where patriotism is little less than a crime, and where the least demonstration is out of order. Yours of the 1st ult. came to hand by this last post. We are grateful that you have appealed for Bitlis famine relief for Heaven knows how much we are in need of funds. We are obliged to take up our tickets for this city to-morrow, since to run much in debt these times when America is so taxed for the unemployed there, and for so many places in this land, would not be wise, though all things considered - oppression, misrule, blackmail, &c. as well as famine, no region in Turkey at the present can compare with this village. Scores, yes hundreds if not thousands have paid the sad forfeit of lack of food; not a few have stumbled into our court weeping bitterly that members of their families had died of hunger! Many

in a distant village. Have lived largely on the meat of their cattle they were drowned by the overflow of the east branch of the Euphrates river. With less than four hundred pounds of money we have kept alive thousands in the four centers of our field for more than five months. They declare that but for it they would have died. And yet we have only been able to deal out a mere pittance as it were twice a week & latterly but once just enough to keep soul & body together. We have also done what we could to afford those able to work to do so as well as to eat. A part of this the glorious fourth I have been up overseeing road building towards our encampment. We all together being able to tumble one side a boulder that filled well with powder would do credit to big day! Have turned certain ones in to help in other ways here in town, dug up vineyards outside &c. So many come begging for something to do so they can at least a little bread for their suffering families. We expect to set about building on a few rooms to the Girls High Sch. here, which will furnish no little work to a few. But I must not overtax your sympathies every time with such rehearsals. There are things more than the foregoing had proper if we felt perfectly free to treat of them. Roads are very unsafe, and only large companies can venture over them and many are robbed.

Certain villagers had come into town to receive from us money sent by their friends at Cordi to keep them from starving and they have taken from them only a short distance from town. Four horses away open were being wrenched from the village plowmen by more than a dozen of bandits. When the others under the lead of their chief were drawing off with their booty they noticed one of their number was falling behind in bringing along one pair of oxen. "Why don't you come along" calls out the chief. "This Armenian is resisting my taking his oxen", is the reply. "Finish him!" comes sounding back and the cruel one draws his rifle & shoots him through, while two or three others are badly wounded in the affray. Passing along down over the main road these outlaws came across four or five Armenian women that had been into town for bread, as I understand, perhaps some of them having stood at our door for a little allowance, and they subject them to treatment worse than death if indeed the latter, too, does not result, from what we have heard.

But I had in mind to refer to our meeting & some mission matters. As I wrote you our only delegate could be Mr. George P. Knapp. Through him & Mr. Richardson of Erzrum who has just passed through here on his return we get a pretty good glimpse of the meeting on which to base some observations. We are much pained that the Brooners must be so unexpectedly snatched away from that so needy field at the present time. We learn they think of having Mr. Richardson come over to help them out for a time if Dr. R. does turn aside from Van to do so, and

I do suspect he will hardly feel like doing so). I have talked pretty plainly to Mr. R. who has been our guest here these past few days, and advised him if his wife's health is not to suffer by some delay before going to U.S. to go over to Appl taking her along, should he be invited to go. This would give him a chance to rally, and with so much enthusiasm & conscientious feeling as he has for the work it seems as though he might do good work in the Appl ~~field in~~ touring the field with such a thoroughgoing, safe-policy companion as Miss Bush, who is to come on from Marsovan this fall we hear. The terrible thing of the whole Erz matter seems to be this it is the town talk, as it were, and for the Rs to take themselves away at once to go to Appl will require much need of explanations to natives & look like promoting for the Rs. while if in the end they have to move on to U.S. to go from Appl would not be so disastrous to the work in Erz. more especially if now as he represents many of the people are on his side as, indeed, the various petitions they sent to the meeting at M. indicates. If Mr. R's wife's letter that met him here, is not too much warped that teacher of the N.B., Miss Chambers, is complicating matters all the more from her fluctuating attitude. The whole is a pitiful story. The hope Mr. Browne's passing through Erz en route for U.S. may be propitious at this time in soothing matters not a little, following which he can come on to tell you in person at Boston. We were wondering if Mr. Browne might not now relieve Mr. Barton so he could hasten back to Appl so work there not suffer so much. But for all such things you at the Rooms, as well as Mr. Barton, will have greater care than we, no doubt.

Partly if not mostly from stress in funds the meeting turned its back on our Mousch scheme albeit the M. B. has kindly assigned £75 for the place that is nearly a ruin, and we are planning one more to complete matters there so we could at least work this one of the best centres for an Armenian population in all Turkey much better than Bitlis. Our delegate says the idea of centralization for our circles was what prevailed & so they turned back on Mousch, Erzingan, Midyat, &c. as places for temporary occupation even, as it would cost something to keep up residence for temporary occupation of missionaries. But I am not convinced of the wisdom of this notwithstanding lack in funds. Such times as these are need to be more in touch with our helpers that as yet so discouraged and especially in centres where we can have as many about us as at Mousch. The meeting cut out our Contingent for M. when only by its help can we at all make up a October base for the £75 the M. B. has granted. They left in a heavy Contingent for a work of our City in supplying a second chapel when the large one built largely at expense of Board is not filled. They do need a small, plain place for Sunday morning worship, but they should meet together at noon of course as it is only 15-20 minutes distance away. I always felt that on the large chapel

the people did not pay at all as they ought - our Board paying over £5 while they gave only 1/; but on coming to the Station as locum tenens for the time it was being built and at this rate. Our B. people is quite large but they dont give as they should in most things. At Moosh there is little for a people anyway, but with such a center & opportunities I cant see why they should be neglected & B. have the decided preference just because the circle happens to be located here. Had I been on the ground years ago am not sure that I should not have pushed hard to make the base of Station in M. where there is a better center, and where we are not so buried up in the snows winters but they we can tour about with about the same ease & safety we can from Erzroom as a center. But if no more money can be raised for M. why not do what I suggested to you & Mr. Ward before starting back - transfer money set aside to supply a residence here in B. and move to rid our schools of a miserable Turkish neighbor, to Moosh. I then suggested £100 thinking this would help out there, and since it was doubtful how we were to be provided for residence in B. since Mr. G. P. K. was coming out. But as matters now look we cant tell when we can get hold of this property, and we may have to give up the pursuit more especially considering stress for funds. Then again there is little hope

they a separate home on earth can be needed long for Mr. Knapp Sen. He son is provided for any way for five years in the place he fitted up under rent. Following this he will doubtless live in the old home, which removes the former need for the residence, more especially as the males are accommodated in the people's parsonage. I have fitted up under rent. If then we could draw on this approp. as I limited to you in B. we could yet do something in solving the M. problem. In a word we must needs have strong if we are to turn out trick. Two or three Ann. meetings back a vote was passed suggesting providing suitable residences for temporary occupation of missionary in such places as M. Ex. & but this time they recd back on it from stress in funds. Dr. Thom, too, in previous meeting was voted to be in duty bound to send out our families of missionaries in other stations as mission doctors & to pay expenses from medical receipts, but this time they go back on this action, too, so some of us are left at their mercy rather than med. skill, as has been the case so much in the past. To be sure Dr. T. has a small hospital to leave, but what missionary is there that has not some department to drop when he works in the outside field! We do very much need a doctor here in B. At the present time Mr. K. Sen. is in a critical condition so we know not what a day may bring forth; while two others of the circle have been

bewering. Should that the other lady he asked for at the Mpt meeting might be forth coming and she a first class physician for there is much need for such in town as well as our quite large circle.)

But I must bring this letter to a close, the latter part of which has been penned in much haste. There are so many things to speak of these days that one hardly knows when to stop.

~~In my late tour to Moorsh~~ I consummated the purchase of little piece of garden adjoining our chapel premises & set to building two small rooms in my name to accommodate us women while the preacher's family & Sch. of girls is in a rented place in another ward. But since my return Gov't there has put a stop to the building though I am not without hope that through our pastor here we may get it going again; I saw him again yesterday about it. Thus it is we need to push hard to keep up hopefulness but to work is His who has done this "All things are yours."

With cordial greetings

Yours as ever

R. M. Cole.

Bittis, July 4, 1874.

Recd. Aug. 6

Ans.

Bittis. July 25. 1894 / 31

Bittis Encampment
July 25. 1894

Rev. C. H. Daniels, D.D.

Dear Dr. Daniels:

Though I would not lay upon a Home Secy. under obligation to correspond with me, a foreign worker, yet I hardly feel to let such a pleasant correspondence as is indicated by your good letter of March 1st die on my hands. If your duties do not admit of your answering friendly letters of course I shall not feel hurt and blame you at all. It is just possible, however, that you may care to be a little more in direct touch with foreign workers notwithstanding your eye is more on the home department since you come before the churches on behalf of the foreign part of the work as well.

Thanks for your kind & pleasant references to our Fred & Frank. The former has especially grateful for your kindness and cordiality to him as a young, unknown man in that great city looking for employment. Dr. Cutler has also been very kind and appreciative of Fred and secured his services for still another year. He spoke not a

bers complimentary things to his face as to the success of his dept. for the year, and of his own accord raised his salary to $1000. for the coming year. He remarked to one of the wealthy Field families one of whose sons H. was tutoring "How fortunate he considered himself in securing Mr. Cole for another year even though he so doing he had turned off 12 other applicants for the position. Some of those wealthy families of N.Y. secured H. to "play school", as they call it - teaching a few boys without text books at their seaside home in Southampton, Long Island, and at excellent salary. He writes us very enthusiastically of his new surroundings. He was in much demand for tutoring outside of school hours in N.Y. among such people as the Vanderbilts, Fields, &c. We write him our fears lest he overdo & break down, unless he might be able to play teaching - sort of easy oral methods.

But pardon so much of detail about our boy being led on to it as I know from your reference to them, though not unconscious, of course, that fond parents are apt to peer through colored spectacles in viewing their dear children.

We are very much pained to learn through Mr. N. N. Barnum's letter that Dr. Smith is out of for some months owing to trouble of the heart.

It is quite possible the foreign workers in such a land as this may not realize there can be any at your end of the line under such pressure as we from depressing circumstances. I remember how in a late letter he spoke of how our life here amid present environment must wear upon us, and it does as only God knows. The way we have to manipulate Turkish officials to keep up the work we have, schools, services &c. add to building accommodation in such a very important center as Mosul; to try to keep soul & body together of the multitudes that have thronged our doors there more than five months past with the small means at hand, is hard in the extreme, more especially when we think of not a few that have stumbled into our court crying as though their hearts would break, affirming that certain members of their families had died in outside villages.

The above is about dark picture enough you would say, and yet by far the more hard must remain unwritten & not a little unknown to the public eye. Amos 5:13 as well as Ps. 26:10 are in point so far as to lead to caution. O the black mail, outrages, oppression & bribery! Heaven pity

the land this way. Dr. Mounsh a merchant for innocently selling from his shop a few things to the records of an Eng. traveler, is called up & charged with having furnished letters on state of country, hastened off to prison & only come out thinner after paying over more than £100. Poor refugees crowd our cities till we have to rent a place of rendezvous for them elsewhere many of them from one of our provinces where are some 15 families not a few of whom have from oppression been forced to change their faith. Among them was one whose throat had been so far gashed with a knife as nearly to take life & prostrate him for weeks. But why should I run on and harrow your feeling? The less known of the land the better & safer the Powers are to do nothing to carry out the Berlin treaty. We must live on & do the most we can under present conditions apparently. Of course much depends on local officials & our present régime in this village is not much more like what was here four years since than darkness & light.

Excuse this hasty note made up with chirographic aid, save my cramping hand in place of my dull typewriter this is too slow a pen in my hand to satisfy, but a pen returns for your nice print. We all join in cordial salutations & best wishes. Sincerely R. M. Cole

Bitlis, August 28. 1894

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

We were much saddened on getting Dr. S's of July 10th to learn that decline in health necessitated a break in our correspondence with him for four months, but glad to learn through the Mission stated clerk of such a fitness of things as turned us over to you. Shall he not say one of our number, if indeed you are to come back to us. If you should not he must set it down that you do not love E. U. less, but the Board & general cause more. We look upon it as no small compliment to our foreign ranks when that Com^ee of Five tell you "Thou art the man needed for this position". Though some of us can take no particular credit to ourselves, yet we would congratulate you for the honor shown by those distinguished gentlemen, as well as for honorary title given you by your College. I take it, - another fitness you see, as well as co-incidence. It seems rather odd to address you as above, and perhaps I should not have done so in putting in personal allusions as I have, and I really did think of writing you a personal note separate from the sort of official part but here they come men together you^are, partly because I am too much pressed to write at length any way. If this lacks the fitness cast it into the waste basket as a

personal letter, but as my pen has to do much of the reporting from Bitlis, especially these times, I have gotten out this official paper you see. I have done wrong perhaps! I have in the past spoken to Dr. S. of the very poor health, and doubtful condition of Mr. Knapp Sen. I am sorry to say that his son, Mr. G. P. K. suffered from his trip to the Mardin meeting so that he had to take to his bed the second day after arrival home. Through medication he became pretty well ~~again~~ when some exposure in a short tour, brought him he came down again in so serious a way that only strong doses of quinine will bring him out of chills this time. However, young man that he is, he may prefer I should not refer to it, but you need it let on in return should you happen to be writing, & it can do no harm. But I wished to refer to the health of our station more particularly at this time in view of what you report through the stated clerk, as per copy before me, as to the action of the Mardin meeting respecting the attitude of our mission doctor Dr. Thom. I should protest that action and also most of our station I believe, and consider its trend about the opposite of what has taken at our previous meeting here in B. when it was said "He was to care for the health of the families of the mission, & pay expenditures from his medical receipts instead of sending, what seemed to some, heavy charges in on individuals in the Erzroom circle.

Of course we at Bitlis do not "give up the idea that he is our mission doctor," unless the Com^ee is ready forthwith to vote us at B., if not Erzroom as well, another.

We had supposed at least one physician might be held some what responsible for the health and lives of them fine, some of them large Missionary circles in the mission, not a few of whom at the present time are so aged & infirm as to render us anxious. Dr. T. has always been kind to us personally, and shown a willingness to come to us during our need in the past only that circumstances beyond his control rendered it impossible, so that he has never had to make a journey for us. But I dont believe in his being so tied up with a hospital that he cant be spared, which looks a little as though the lives of your workers was not worth so much as that of natives. Of course in most cases he could leave any patients he might have with the nurses or medical assistants he has which he could go to the rescue of fellow countrymen. There are none of us missionaries but have work at these centers that must suffer when we are off in the saddle, but we go outside, nevertheless, just the same. I feel I have a right to speak on this matter of a physician as probably none in the Mission have been through as much as I have from the absence of such a comfort, whether those 16 years in Erzroom & Erzn or that 10 in B. Erzn in those days was about like Bitlis now - no doctors hardly, to be called unless in desperation simply as advisers. With loved ones sinking - slipping away from our grasp & the agony with which I have bumbled over our medical books, and been through such experiences as leads the people to run upon me something as they do a doctor. But it is indeed waring upon me - such responsibility, & it ought not

so to be. Such trials have given this record, however, that in our own family we seldom have sickness under ordinary conditions, as we are ever on the alert to look out for the "omen of prevention" by way of regularity in eating, sleeping, proper diet & exercise as well as medicating in season. But if this might be, when it comes to a Mission Circle that is quite another thing. For the next two months, at least, the constant presence of a physician in this circle seems of absolute importance. He should have a constant eye on Mr. K. Sen. who is largely demented from cerebral congestion with no small admixture of apoplexy, as would appear, it looking as though he may have already had a slight shock. Then here is the case of his son just now, while the young Mrs. K. is poorly, and to need the attendance of doctor in Ech. in any case. This easy to see the heavy responsibility rests on some of us of more experience times, & so often, as was the case when we had typhus in High Sch. last year carrying off three hopeful boys, and exposing me in their care quite to the anxiety of my own family.

Dr. Raymolds we ordained as preacher years ago & he does not like medical work sufficiently to be counted Mission physician, while Miss Kimball, a young lady, can hardly be looked upon as a family doctor, while if he here to secure her services as Mrs. G. P. K. was thinking of for his wife in Ech. he needs to go on to escort her, - it hardly being safe for her to travel alone.

Here, then, ends my protest against Dr. G's being tied up to that native hospital in Mardin. Pardon my writing, for writer's cramp troubles me. Wish I knew of some rapid - not expensive - typewriter that would help me in this respect, as well as manifolder, so as to receive copies. May Hall Miller, Lin. Dec. 24, 1894.

Rec'd. Dec. 28, 1894.

Dear Sister Miller, I am not sure if my letter sent after you to the distant land, arrived. Of course it should be a time of "love" if you find Mr. Nitt, is too old for some work.

Bitlis, Sept 20. 1894

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Yours of the 17th ult. respecting consular question for our Mission, is at hand this post, and I hasten to reply that our station think very favorably of your idea, though we would beg to submit a few thoughts of ours regarding certain phases of the matter as well as the location of M.C. Down. Such an official should be of much help in securing better protection to us and our interests in the land as American subjects, as well as facilitating the work we have in hand, if he may be properly backed up by the home government instead of being rebuked in the end as some of these our officials have been in other parts of Turkey. Much depends upon the Administration at home, but even more on the character of the man sent out.

We are very glad you have hit upon one so well fitted in every way for this important post, though I apprehend it will be next to impossible to keep this office above the dominion of politics if "uncle Sam" is to pay the bills. Once the office is established it will be likely to go on, though it is fair to assume that the incumbent may be changed to suit somewhat the fluctuations of American politics while our so-called civil-service reform remains as at present.

As to the location bear with us if we make a plea for

Bitlis or Mousb, for do not the "sick need the physician"? Our field comes nearer to being central for the Mission than any one of the five other Stations, and on many accounts has more demand for what such an office would imply. Harpoot, for instance, has the Sivas Consul-General only five days distant in that direction, while the English (virtually American too) is at Diarbekir only four days away towards Mardin, though as matter of fact spends his summer right at Harpoot itself. The other three stations have their Consuls at hand save Mardin that is so near Diarbekir & with open roads the year round that they can go there.

But what is to be said of poor, neglected Bitlis with its 13 American subjects all told - the largest, by the way, of any circle found in either of the five Station of the Mission at the present time. Being left with no doctor must we be without a Consul, too, save at the above distant places with which communication is very difficulty for 6 months of the year owing to bad roads, and the deep snows of winter? Several times during the history of this Station parties have had to go to those distant cities to arrange power of attorney, or attend to other important civil transactions. The last and perhaps most harrassing, became very recent and taking place right here, was a five weeks plus given to trying to arrange with a so-called notary-public Turkish official to affix his seal and endorsement to a paper of Release on a mortgage of the Misses Ely.

After all our perplexing manipulations with said functionary we had to take it before the Governor-General to end the business, if indeed New York State Gov^t shall count it sufficiently legal to be ended.

There was the robbery of Messrs. Knapp & Raynolds by one Monsieur Bey some 11 years since a day & half from here, the sum of which was so manoeuvered for want of our own official as to prove abortive - the culprit going at large just the same - swaggering about, exhibiting to friends goods he had plundered from American citizens after coming very near to taking their lives!

Then again there was that famous & almost interminable Knapp house-sum that has been a standing rebuke to our want of proper protection.

Though we cant put too much stress probably on your points 3, 4 & 5 of the post script to your letter respecting help for naturalized Armenians & the status quo, yet if they did apply we, too, have scores in the distant land from our field - some of the commonest villages even having their representatives. But of the status quo part Heaven knows we may lay claim to leading all the rest - actually posing as the hub in our demand! The past two years have witnessed such irregularities through all our field as better not be treated here. Our work is being hedged in greatly, while we personally, though counted American citizens, have been halted at the city

entrance in going to & returning from journeys much as though we were peasants from the provinces subject to the beck & nod of petty officials.
This much as my thoughts on this subject penned just as I am starting out on a tour for the outside field. If for any reason the odds should be against us and it should be decided to locate Mr. Dwon at Harpoot, he should still hold out a warm welcome for such a man as well as official, more especially if he held himself ready to rough it like the rest of us in touring much among us, giving particular attention to this so terribly neglected part of neglected Turkey.
In a word, we missionaries generally feel that though we happen to be known as clergymen before our govern.t & to be dealers in Educational & spiritual wares we should be entitled to some such protection as common mercantile American gentlemen I have met in Turkey who were dealers in figs bees and even bugs! (beetle-hunters).
We have just moved in from summer retreat. Health of the circle as usual. There seems to be cholera at Mousch among soldiers collected from infected regions - brought up as if to put down some ("moonshine") rebel.n among Arm.ns, so we have quarantines from that way they caught our boys coming to sch. here for a whole 10 days. I hope to get round from a tour to the north part of our field without being caught. Cordially, &c. R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Sept. 20, 1894.

To whom it may concern. - greeting. It is but
fitting that on the hart. of humanity in these regions we make
grateful mention of the £350 that has come into our
hands the last year for famine relief, - coming most
of it from unknown, and as yet unseen friends, a few
of them in England, but more of them in distant America.
Heaven bless the kind donors wherever found!
Foreseeing what was to be the fate of the people from such lack in
crops and general stagnation in business, we stored a little wheat
with potatoes and mutton cooked dry so as to keep - all that our
remnant of money at hand in the late autumn, would allow.
Till the last of Jan. and then unostentatiously, still secretly
for as possible, did we begin anything like open distribution.
From this time to July 1st especially we did all we could to save
life both here and later in three centres of the province, till
our list at one time run up to 250 houses or some 2000
souls here in Bitlis City alone. We were greatly indebted to
the parties for their kind and faithful assistance in this work
both in the provinces and in this city where we had a distribu-
tion from the market as well as from our house court - each
once a week. We deal out only such small amounts as will
barely keep soul and body together, so as to make what we have
go just as far as possible. To save manhood, as well as life,
we have given out as loans, on notes, &c, in hopes they might be able
to return something as help for the coming winter which bids
fair to be witness even greater suffering than the last one.
We are glad to say that over 150 grades of wheat has thus
reverted to us, though if the hunger of the parties passing is-

er should come to be greater than that of others again
would go to their hands. In some cases we provided work
road-building, vineyard-tilling, &c. so that they might sweat,
well as eat their bread, by earning money with which to pur-
ase it. When the spring opened so there was
ne hope for work we began to cut off from our city list,
as to do something for the hundreds of refugees that were
owding our streets, begging from door to door, though so over-
unning our own premises by day and night that we were
ced to rent and prepare an asylum for them elsewhere,
ile the potatoes and meat laid in came in good stead to
rnish a little hot soup to replenish & warm the poor creatures.
unger and other conditions almost depopulated certain provinces
ile others would scattered if there had been open ways for it.
e inexperienced can ill appreciate the tax of sympathy & purse
volved when famished ones stumble into our court fainting
if in their last throes, weeping bitterly for members of their fami-
s that have died of hunger in their province, or fallen out by
ay side hither. In one province scores had subsisted
most entirely on the carcasses of cattle drowned from the in-
dation of the Euphrates last spring, while in a nearer village one poor
mily in utter desperation had killed & eaten all that re-
ained to them — a young donkey! and so claimed the man
~~himself~~, as he presented himself at our door, when the snow-path
as so he could come, though he had heard of it in other ways be-
~~the~~ city deaths from starvation were reported; but for all
ch, whether in town or the provinces it is difficult to ~~reach~~
uch, as our 26 years in the country, with repeated experiences
famine, testifies. People will claim that certain of

eir number have starved to death, and may be only too
ady to slip roots or other trash into their children's hands to
now at when persons of sympathy & known ability to help,
proach; yet, bating occasional deception from desperation
any deaths, if they come not from hunger direct, are the resultant
such improper diet as nearly equals total abstinence.
Would that we might close this Report without further solicitations
t owing to the thick darkness that looms up on every hand - the
ice of wheat still more than fourfold, as the new supply is being
ought in, the money & credit of the people gone - what can we
but to try and save life, though the task looks more
rimdable than ever as we face up to the near winter.
Heaven pity poor humanity! How they have showered
essings on the head of kind donors who have helped us
itherto! "May their life be long, but for their help we & our
ildren would been dead", &c. in such a long category as we
ed not repeat here. While, then, we stand down amid this
arkness we ask that you of the outside world "hold the rope"
d hold it hard by sending on funds which we still
omise to turn to the greatest account for poor humanity,
mons as must be the task for us.

iven out	800 bottmans of bread @ average of 8 ps.	6400
" "	760 godes wheat, barley & millet @ aver. 21	15960
" "	in cash to the poor	6440
		28,800
	Money now being invested in wheat	6200
		35,000 ps.

On behalf of the Americans.

(Rev.) R. M. Cole, missionary.

ithis, Kurdistan.
rkey, Nov. 1894.

Bitlis, Nov. 1. 1894.

Rec'd Dec. 24.

To whom it may concern, - greeting. It is but fitting that on the part of humanity in these regions we make grateful mention of the £350 that has come into our hands the last year for famine relief, - coming most of it from unknown, and as yet unseen friends, a few of them in England, but none of them in distant America. Heaven bless the kind donors wherever found!
Foreseeing what was to be the fate of the people from crop failure and general stagnation in business, we stored a little wheat with potatoes and mutton cooked dry so as to keep - all the fruits of money at hand in the late autumn would allow. Not till the last of Jan. and then unostentatiously, still secretly so far as possible, did we begin anything like open distribution. From this time to July we especially we did all we could to save life both here and later in three centres of the province, till our list at one time run up to 250 families or some 2000 souls in Bella City alone. We were greatly indebted to other parties for their kind and faithful assistance in this work both in the provinces and in this city where we had a distribution from the market as well as from our house court - each house a week. We dealt out only such small amounts as will barely keep soul and body together, so as to make what we have go just as far as possible. To save manhood, as well as life we made grant out as loans, on notes, &c, in hopes they might be able to return something as help for the coming winter which was fair to be worse than greater suffering than the last one. We are glad to say that over 150 grades of wheat has thus reverted to us, though if the hunger of the starving passing is

Bitlis, Nov. 1. 1894.

Rec'd Dec. 24.

To whom it may concern. - greeting. It is but fitting that on the hart of humanity in these regions we make grateful mention of the £350 that has come into our hands the last year for famine relief, - coming most of it from unknown, and as yet unseen friends, a few of them in England, but none of them in distant America. Heaven bless the kind donors wherever found! Foreseeing what was to be the fate of the people from such lack in crops and general stagnation in business, we stored a little wheat with potatoes and mutton cooked dry so as to keep - all the few pittance of money at hand in the late autumn would allow. Not till the last of Jan. and then unostentatiously, still secretly so far as possible, did we begin anything like open distribution. From this time to July 1st especially we did all we could to save life both here and later in three centres of the province, till our list at one time run up to 250 houses or some 2000 souls live in Bitlis city alone. We are greatly indebted to other parties for their kind and faithful assistance in this work both in the provinces and in this city when we had a distribution from the market as well as from our house court - each twice a week. We dealt out only such small amounts as barely kept soul and body together, so as to make what we had go just as far as possible. To save manhood, as well as life we have given out loans, on notes, &c, in hopes they might be able to return something to help for the coming winter which bids fair to be witness even greater suffering than the last one. We are glad to say that over 150 grades of wheat has thus reverted to us, though if the hunger of the starving passing is

ver should come to be greater than that of others again
should go to their hands. In some cases be provided work
road-building, vineyard-tilling, &c. so that they might earn,
well as eat their bread by earning money with which to pur-
hase it. When the Spring opened so there was
ne hope for work he began to cut off from our city life,
as to do something for the hundreds of refugees that were
owding our streets, begging from door to door, though so over-
unning our own premises by day and night that he was
need to rent and furnish an asylum for them elsewhere,
ile the potatoes and meat laid in Crime in good stead, to
urnish a little hot soup to refleuish & warm the poor creatures.
unger and other conditions almost depopulated certain provinces
ile others would scattered if there had been open ways for it.
e inexperienced can ill appreciate the tax of sympathy & force
volved when famished ones stumble into our court panting
if in their last throes, weeping bitterly for members of their fami-
s that have died of hunger in their province, or fallen out by
way side hither. In one province scores had subsisted
most entirely on the carcasses of cattle drowned from the in-
ndation of the Euphrates last spring, while in a nearer village one poor
mily in utter desperation had killed & eaten all that re-
ained to them — a young donkey! and so claimed the meat
himself, as he presented himself at our door, when the enemy-foot
ns so he could come though we had heard of it in other villages be-
e this city deaths from starvation were reported; but for all
ch, whether in town or the provinces it is difficult to write
ch, as our 26 years in the country, with repeated experiences
famine, testifies. People will claim that certain of

their number have starved to death, and may be only too ready to slip roots or other trash into their children's hands to gnaw at when persons of sympathy & known ability to help approach; yet, taking occasional exception from desperation many deaths, if they come not from hunger direct, are the resultant of such improper diet as nearly equals total abstinence.

Would that we might close this report without further exhortation but owing to the thick darkness that looms up on every hand – the price of wheat still more than fourfold as the new supply is being brought in, the money & credit of the people gone – what can we do but to try and save life, though the task looks more formidable than ever as we face up to the near winter.

Heaven pity poor humanity! How they have showered blessings on the head of kind donors who have helped us hitherto! May their life be long, but for their help we have shall we have been undone, in such a long category as we need not repeat here. While, then, we stand down amid this darkness we ask that you of the outside world hold the rope and hold it hard by sending on funds which we stand promise to turn to the greatest account for poor humanity, arduous as must be the task for us.

Given out	800 bottomless of bread @ average of 8/6.	6400
" "	760 quarters wheat, barley & millet @ av. 21	15960
" "	in cash to the poor	6440
		28,800
Money now being invested in wheat		6200
		35,000

On behalf of the Americans.

Bitlis, Kurdistan.
Turkey, Nov. 1894.

(Rev.) R. M. Cole, missionary

J. L. B.
12-22
12-27

Bitlis, Nov. 5. 1894

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith

Pleasant as has been your locum tenens for us, our missionary bro. Barton - who, by the way, as a mission we are loath to spare even to help out the Home deficit - we are glad to hear there is hopeful you may be standing in your lot & place by the time this arrives; and we take this opportunity to pass along our warm congratulations to you on restoration of usual vigorous work, as well as refer to some items respecting two late tours, our circle and work. Though I had blocked out most of my letter under date of Oct. 30th, but being so soon called out on another short tour I start again under a later date.

First of all I should say, what, perhaps, the happy young father, Mr. G. P. Knapp, may have reported that on coming home I found that a little son, Addison by name, had been given them on the 2d instant. On the 8th Mr. K. left here to escort back to van Miss Dr. Kimball, who kindly came over to attend his wife, and he will not be back till next week.

I have spoken in late letters to Dr. Barton of the great need we feel for a physician in our circle, which need is being emphasized from day to day. Mr. Knapp Sen. can hardly hull through the winter here, while his wife

is much worn from the strain & anxiety in care of him, though at my urgent suggestion for some time she has had a native nurse for him nights. Mr. K's mind is largely gone, while he is in danger of going of apoplexy any time, as did his father before him. She has taken cold and has a bad cough, - had a diseased lung a year ago, Dr. Kimball found, and has not improved in this respect. She has just heard of the death from consumption of a sister, and her own case can only be one of time, we fear not to be very long delayed, if her husband holds on in this condition. This much I give as my glimpse of the situation so you may not be in danger of surprises, since you may not have very full or frequent reports, though reference to her health especially, in the return, might not be best - unless in a confidential note - for most letters from the Rooms are passed around the circle, and they might prefer to report their own health bill.

As looking to the tours would we might tell you of new trophies for the master in the regions visited, but conditions are so dark, the general personnel so adverse as you can conjecture what can be expected save in such startling lines as you must have heard something about. I had in my long tour the sickening, dark-age rehearsal of the right to ten thousand in some 30 villages, and at near hand - most of it coming through western sources ~~through~~ by parties coming from or near the ill-fated regions. But an N. B. M. official sent to report

will have given some glimpse for the outside world, while we forbear for the present. Amos 5:13. Heaven knows it all and is not vengeance the Lord's?)
We hope to have four or six schools in the regions visited, though the children are yet too busy in their village work, as they are likely to be till snow-fall. The local sch. censorship here gives us much trouble, not yet issuing permits for only three of our schools, two of which are in this city.
Cholera has been pretty bad in Moush - 38 being the highest mortality for one day, about 1000 dying from the city in all. Quarantines were set up in various regions, some of which had no semblance of infection (the "ounce of prevention" you see!) while in other needful places there were none at all. All their arrangements were as crude & nonsensical as they were annoying, having in mind financial emolument without doubt. Poor peasants bringing straw from the infected plain are let go scot free while the missionary coming from a non-infected region is forced into quarantine and arbitrary charges made. So much for our rights as protected American citizens in this land! The only purification they favored (?) us with was to present some medicated liquid for us to drop our silver into (had it not come from pockets and fingers emanating from a non-infected region!) to pay for — absolutely nothing save a slight sponging with the nostrum our horses from which we must needs remove the saddles to make thorough work of it, while our bedding with its bags, saddle bags, &c. did not have a semblance of

of smoke about them! O tempora! O Turkey!
Consistency certainly would be a rare jewel in this land.
The 19th. Extra pressure for time, all the more in Br. K's absence, has delayed this letter. Satly I went to one of our largest villages only seven miles distant, and spent the Sab. coming back on Monday. Communion season had been arranged by the preacher, and it was a choice occasion in that place of no little encouragement in the Lord's work. A new bro. & sister were admitted to ch. membership on confession of their faith making now (including a few away at Constab for work) some 15 in the place. In our ch. meeting one bro. felt like staying away from his Lord's table because he had such a Jezebel of a wife to try his temper by jerking to head off family prayers. "But", said another bro.-pointing towards his wife sitting now in the company as a member of the ch. "did not she torture me in this same way, even thrusting her fingers in her ears so she could not hear my prayer, or going out of the house slamming the door. Go keep right on praying and you will see it will take effect, as in my case".
Considering such and thousands more that might be mentioned of hindrances to home devotions in this land of the multitudes under one roof & in one enclosure, truly what excuse can Christian America, with all its system, have to neglect family prayers! - My enclosure explains itself. Would that remittals might be made for this object, though we dislike to take from America in its distress. I am writing the Armenians of Fresno, Cal. to see what they can do for the cause. Sincerely, R. M. Cole

373
J. E. B.
Rec'd 1-8-95
Ans'd 1-12-95

Dec. 10. 1894

Rev. Geo. Burton D.D.
Corresponding Secy
Am. Board
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr. Burton;

Yours of Nov. 1st reached us by last Post and contains no "painful announcement", though it is not easy to part company with such a good man as Dr. E. of course; still we hope to confess that this change seems the natural arrangement, more especially that a readjustment was to be made whereby his burdens were to be lightened, and we had sort of anticipated it. But your lawyer-like argument of being in danger of "pleading your own cause in asking for anything for E. L." gives additional reason for the new arrangement, and tempts us to suggest that on the other hand we, too, from this end may reason similarly, and feel that our own missionary brother will champion our cause as an interested party in a peculiar sense. Still we hope not to take undue advantage of this intimate relation, and so embarrass you beyond measure. May all our official relations be as pleasant as has our personal hitherto, and it is enough. I can seem to see how you look sitting at the good Dr. Clark's desk in his, the corner room, I suppose it is. Presuming upon your strong, younger eyes as well ~~as well~~ as old friendship, I may now & then side up

to you in personal communications for inside views to contribute to no official file, but rather to fill the waste-basket. We were interested in your physicg. in Cong.l which we propose to stand up on a bracket to look down upon us, betimes. We are interested in what you say as to consular candidate. We had the A. B. one fr. V. as guest some six days of late, but the way he was watched as well as our premises --- are other parts not pleasant to think of! From your own experience in the land as well as what you gather from letters, you will understand somewhat our special caution as to correspondence. Amos 5:13. Floating rumors would go to show that outsiders not over desirable, Jo. 22:19, though we trust all is to go well. We read in the Consl papers of last post the European papers & this Govt. don't agree as to what has taken place in regions So. of M. and so four pashas are being sent up to investigate, though the A. B. U. man not allowed to enter region to investigate. (Sote.) The Lord have mercy on the poor people of the land! Jer. 5:1-2. Some are, Jo. 42:22. & of our faith here father of our High Sch. teacher. That you will pray for us we labor, & trust that we may merge from dark environments. The famine prospect is very dark, as I had sent Dr. S. before yours came to hand. Though there are some cases of cholera here & there in the field we think of starting out for a tour, and I have little time for writing. I send this on a side track, as many letters miscarry of late for certain reasons. Mr. K. sen. very poorly. Letters as usual. Hastily, &c.

R. M. C.

Bitlis, Dec. 10, 1894.

275

374

C. H. D.
Rec'd 2-5-95
Ans'd

Bitlis, Tukey-in-Asia, Dec. 31st, 1894.

Rev. C. H. Daniels, D. D.,

Dear Dr. Daniels; Your last so cordial letter has remained by me unanswered hitherto, and now I will give you the benefit of my Hall writer, as a sort of amateur at the use of such a machine.

As you beyond the seas must be aware, we are living in peculiar times- not to use a stronger form of expression, Amos 5:13. Still we are dwelling in safety, notwithstanding poverty, famine and a few cases of cholera here & there, not to mention other things, the reverberation of which must have reached other shores ere this. I have written to Drs. Smith & Barton about all prudence dictates at present, though I have my doubts as to the fate of said epistles, from information. We know epistolary matter is an uncertain transaction these days, from peculiarly trying reason. Isa. 42:22. Jer. 5:1-2. We come various manipulations to run the gauntlet, friends must have seen, for do we not preach to the people "Render unto Caesar" etc. & "pray for the king," and other such like appropriate passages? But special circumstances have turned the yoke so that the team goes heavily, more especially that the plow runs deep! However we live in hopes things are to brighten soon. If the special envoy gets at facts there is to be more has appeared, possibly His Majesty having been kept in the dark as to the reality.

However, what have we to do with such questions, more than our sympathy for poor humanity. If Dr. S. receives what I wrote on the famine this way it will be seen how our feelings are taxed in that respect, while now comes in cholera, that we hope may not spread greatly, since it is winter now. Would we had funds with which to feed the hungry!

With cordial greetings from all, Yours sincerely R. M. Cole

P. S. Thanks for your kind intention & expressions respecting our boys. Perhaps I ought to send on Mrs. C. & our 3 daughters here to be with Frank.

Bitlis, Turkey

Dec. 31, 1894

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-4-95
Ans'd 9

Koordistan, Jan. 1. 1895

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

Yours speaking of excitement over news, &c. and request for free writing on matters, just at hand. Though I wrote both you & Mr. Smith two or three posts back, have reason to fear they may not arrive. Send also to Dr. Daniels, shall see if that comes through. We shall keep you as well posted on things as our full prudence dictates, and further on you will see better reporters.

We dwell in safety thus far, the cholera not spreading in town much yet, and since it is winter we trust it will not. But such is the state of things that even this disease seems to have little terror for poor humanity. Would that we had funds for relief for famished ones, refugees, &c. or some deaths must follow them last year.

Of course evangelistic & educational work languish much these times, and once more what comfort can we report or tabulate! We are all in usual health, though Mr. K. Sen. is so poorly as to be seldom dressed now, being abed most of the time. Unless his disease takes some sudden turn as did that of the late Dr. E. E. Bliss of Cairo he will not hold on through the winter. "Our eyes are unto the Hills from whence cometh our strength". Hope to get this letter into the mail already given over. In much haste, &c. R. M. C.

Boundiction, Jan. 1, 1890

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-21-95
Ans'd 23

376

Bitlis, Jan. 22. 1895

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

This is the third week that we have passed over no letters proper, though the last time we wrote a few Postals, & among them was one to yourself - not any official you will say, but if you stood at our end of the line you likely would write no more than we do. Birds of the air have carried, as we have reason to know from the feed papers & letters that have come through the lines though implication in certain quarters spoil all elsewhere & so act accordingly quite to embarrassment. We have depended on electricity via Constantinople to report our welfare. Our consul at S. writes as if he felt it, that we had not kept him posted but dated Dec. 15 and reaching us about New Years. The first thing we have had from our Embassy direct was a "tel." arriving the 20th inst. - two days ago, and that at the instance of a significant one we are complaining that our posts were not given us. His was to the effect that an order had been issued at C. that our posts were not to be meddled with.

If this be followed out, so far as good.
We have this day sent a registered letter and telegram to the Consuls at Monsh, as we suppose they must be there, though we have no definite information on the point.
This is one of the most fanatical holes found in this polyglot land, and when you learn as to use of electricity we have made and are still making, as also as may seem to you outsiders squeamish methods in Epistolation you have found scope for inference as to the situation. Still Rexes first bk 10:6-7 has a point, as you may know some time when the cheery days of Sichem come.
We are all in usual health but the status quo has had to do with electrical resort.
Mr. Knapp Sen. is abed most of the time only sitting up awhile for meals, as he can be more comfortable thus than in a chair the family feel. If his trouble be like that of the late E. E. Elias, D.D. of Coush, he may linger some months yet.
This much for a flashlight on us & our status. The Lord watch between us & the home friends!
Hastily, &c. R. M. Cole.

Bittis, Jour. N.Z. 1895.

Recd 3-25-95
Ansd

37

decide our future.
Rec'd Feb. 12, 1895
Bitung
Considering our situation it has
seemed wise to write you often, and I have al-
most every week, sending this way & that trusting
not a few at least will have up at your number.
Last week I spoke with some spirit on the vacillating
foreign policy of our Gov't.- its inconsistency - flying at China
for treatment of a few Japanese, &c. but leaving even 14 subjects
here largely unheeded, to say nothing of other important information
that the S. official writes as requesting, but not stirring out of
his tracks to tour his district & collect such himself, as well
as give some impression that we have some earthly official.
Our city status is not improving for all the change in the chief of-
ficial, we wired S. Mr. J. "We have great need of your presence
here for us". On the fourth day (yesterday) he replied "If it is
important explain by telegraph, - if not by letter"(!) Now con-
sidering how Mr. Peet wired as though an arrangement
for a Consul to be here was being made, how we telegraphed
him (Mr. J.) as stated above, partly in view of a hint in
your letter, we felt quite sure the latter would at least look
in on this part of what he speaks of as his "Consular
district clear on to the Persian border"; But no, there
he is still in S. with his two or three subjects at hand,

377

Dr. Barton
Enclosure
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he is still in S. with his two or three subjects at hand,

besides himself - am not quite sure how many - and there let him stay so far as we are concerned. The idea that we could explain more by tel or letters when regis.d packages have been lost, opened &c. However, I dont know that we should vituperate said official, but if as an American citizen I did feel to let go, as has Julian Ralph, on the Foreign Policy of our Gov.t (in a late Harpers Weekly), who could blame us!
We shall hope to keep eyes towards "the Hills from whence", &c. "Except the Lord build", "vain is the help of man" we can fall back on I suppose, but uncle Sam will have to give in his ofc just the same.
The situation is still critical so far as appearance goes, and that is what Gov.t go by rather than trust to Providence, I take it.
Only three evenings ago, as people were coming from market, two x.n women were so insulted by the -- and such a melée followed that only for one or two persons of a special influence & presence of mind, who can say what might not have taken place here, for most daring threats are of constant occurrence. Now a petition has been put in of clear blackmail against the x.n who did much to quiet the tumult.
If my 26½ years experience in the country is of value & considering all that has taken place this two years (more than has yet appeared in the papers - don't let them fear exaggeration) then it is a hopeless case to think of the races living on as in the past. If joint occupation at least (& I have never believed in Armenian autonomy, not passing it over to Russia, but something like the Lebanon) then it is safe to say that probably we should have to withdraw, and who knows what would become of our Prots. that are recognized as sort of Americans and so the world would collapse so far as our Gov.t is concerned. That commission is a farce as appears. When objection was made to their having Armenian dragoman they should have put in a protest at once, seems to me. Would they had not come if they are to withdraw before a better regime is introduced. This we should know as a circle so as

378
J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-19-95
Ans'd

Dear Dr. Barton, Feb. 5. 1895.

Your cheery, comforting letter under date of Nov. 26th & Dec. 27th came slowly to hand - good for us if all things may be - if slow - sure.

We have been so nearly under siege that if any letters have found their way through the lines we felt compelled to conch them in such terms that you may have counted us fit candidates for some insane asylum, or, perchance, queried whether we had in mind to give you a homily on the higher life from the way we took to quoting scripture.

But now that it is a few days since the chief of 300+, as well as of all iniquity in these parts was cast out of office, and sent via Southern route towards C. as sort of prisoner as some have it, though we dont feel sure of this last, we feel like now venturing out more with our pen. I went yesterday to see Omar Bey, one of the Monsh Commission that has come on as locum tenens for a time. So far as appearance went he was very cordial, & spoke of returning my call. Still we are not living in a time of assurance so far as man is concerned. This official has let out some of the prisoners, and rescinded some of the terrible torture of those still incarcerated. But he seems quite anxious to have a petition signed to the effect that it is a time of

[illegible] to send on help as soon as possible. Or a few hundred of some useful & are in greatest des. in Cour when asked to say what has been done against them "Nor dare I, [illegible] mere 24 hours only there are no questions asked to any outer world. Yes we are alive!"

[illegible] Barton, D. D. for funds [illegible] & [illegible] reach M. [illegible] in not [illegible] cases more dead than alive. Yours [illegible] F. M. [illegible]

[illegible] refugees from the illfated region. A [illegible] urgent [illegible] are poor more dead than alive

peace & quiet. But few are to be thus hoodwinked when Xns have suffered so terribly, and when some fanatical Turks still say "Just let this time pass over, and if you Xns dare get what you want you see what becomes of you all" &c. Petitions to the Pasha, telegrams to the Porte, &c. are the order of the day, but upon the whole it is still a time of anxiety & more especially as the Comn. at M. is being obstructed in its movements. I am all ready to venture over that way to encourage our storm-tossed peoples & helpers, but so much snow has fallen as to block our road. Twice before I was on the point of starting once my zaptieh even having come to the door preparatory to mounting; but environments were such both here and at M. that it was not thought prudent. Probably you divined from such hints as Neh. 1:15 & Ps. 56:6. that we personally were not a little exposed. Many of our people were constantly cautioning us not to appear abroad on prudential reasons, though to receive some hope of our tels going through as also important letters I may have been seen often going to & from the P.O. but with an escort of two or three men at my heels ~~on the rear~~ while the seven shooter was in my pocket ready in case of emergency. Only once has some a Kurd ventured insulting words to the more than six footer Yankee! He dwell hitherto in safety, though cant say that it has not been a time of anxiety having so many ladies & children here. He did deliberate a little about taking them to Mardin

while naturally the two able bodied men would come back to "stay by the stuff," and encourage our people. It is impossible to tell just how much it is safe to risk in such a fanatical place as this.

One thing is very clear, as indeed your letters and sympathy have shown that if American interests - if not life - are of high importance there should be a Consul of our own this way at such a time. During all these trying times we have had just two letters from the Sivas Consul - one just this moment reaching my hands - and one telegram from Minister Terrell Lieut. His tel. said "an order had been issued that our mails be not interfered with. Only two days later a registered package of ours was opened, letters opened, papers suppressed to some extent, if not quite so much as before. Soon after this we sent another tel. to Minister Terrell praying for reply from him of 23 words, also praying for 2d copy to be sent from C. office to Mr. Peet. reading as follows "Our post is still tampered with, letters opened, papers taken, and that there was great need for our Consul such circumstances as these". After a long seven days waiting came a telegram, not from the Minister but from Mr. Peet saying "The Embassy felt the need of our having a Consul here and that an arrangement for such was being made."

This much for a sort of official report of actual relations with our diplomats, though I am forced to hasten off this letter. But before closing this subject I feel like putting in a few "rousements" as the eccentric Brooklyn minister called such. If most missionaries are Republicans must that count that their interests are to be winked at. Cleveland could so far ignore Monroe Doctrine as to well nigh reinstate a corrupt queen on the Hawaiian throne. He can now fly in the face of the Chinese at their treatment of a few Japanese as have the thousands of xns in these parts been treated and the doctrine doesn't crack apart at all. But here with his 14 bonafide subjects in this station alone, & probably more xns than you have read of, yet in the papers, subject to such fiendish death-methods as public print should not treat of, but serious reflection must be had till about all is yielded to the "unspeakable". If Mr. Jewett can form a party in any capacity for investigating such a charnel-house procedure against humanity must it be that he is not allowed to come over to canvass this part of what he speaks of as his consular district, and wishes us to report when hitherto if not now, it was hazardous to write openly. Well, if this is the way Uncle Sam is to treat us possibly we should feel a bit envious at those who carry about the British lion on their road papers.

Excuse this hasty & spirited letter. All in usual health & join in greetings. As ever R. M. C.

Pitkin, Feb. 12, 1895

4-8-95
13

379

Mr. Barton assumes charge of Legation & official greetings exchanged. Author R.M.C. Agonizing plea for poor refugees - Mr. Barton, generally that we are with us forty seven hours after 6 mos. as well. Thus came to us ~~the~~ confusion of ~~the~~ this place in 19 ~~the~~ mere 5 or 6 days in relation to Mr. Barton

Miss Mary Ely visited us about one o'clock on our usual winter visit the 15th inst. more later this time from various causes. How much we have to do & say and what may be found have not time to explain now. The Open Door will tell what visitors international are found here. Sometime when all the lessons of the perilous times possibly have been learned, with perhaps a dif. regime in vogue we can tell friends as not now. In Amos 5:13 still is in point. I find that even our last to preacher here was opened, as also our reg. package & many other letters at B. some 10 days ago. Every obstacle is thrown in the way of bringing verifiers before the Commission & most of all wounded ones. In all things we try to do our duty faithfully, boldly, as circumstances demand.

As our own Govt. maintains such a vacillating policy, apparently reckoning not that we and our families are in danger, as well as our people, may be said to have in mind partly to side up to H. B. M's consul to advise as to the future, for he admits to being our official, under the circumstances. Through his favor we have a freer pen & may telegraph Mr. Peet more plainly once more in case our Embassy chooses to order on Mr. J. of Erzeroum.

Mr. Barton's arrival in Erzeroum

If they do not thanks to H. Majesty Govt. her officials have been very kind & helpful to us during these long years in Turkey. But they are still here, while there should be such in that so fanatical place B. But they know; we have the God of armies to fall back on at all times. It would be impossible to move the largely bed-ridden Mr. K. to Mardin where we did think some of taking our families simply, in the early winter. Just now comes letter from G.P.K. by risky special stating things grow worse in B. great pressure being brought to bear on people with torture on prisoners that they sign paper of nothing done in ill-fated region north of investigation, protesting against interference of foreigners, charging Van Consul and other "Satanic" outsiders with the whole &c. I may say here before Commission what I know. Would gladly consult with our Lge. as well as Embassy, as limited to Consul, but time does not wait. If I stand before them it is in defense of the truth & humanity as such, amenable to God and my conscience, since time presses.

We would not arouse too much apprehension on yours & friends' part for our safety though realize full well what might possibly take place.

We hear thro- G.P.K's that Congress has voted Consuls to Erz & Mpt. Would they not on the ground at once. Those have been so careful to seem neutral that they are much handicapped, not even being allowed Xn dragomen nor to send their Cavass to see that wounded refugees are forthcoming and insured safety before & after examination. Seems to me more power in their lines was needed. However they seem experienced men & a report after such a regime gives the Turk no chance to complain of ~~un~~partiality.

We fall mother Victoria is ready to help us up & Mr. Chamberlain is ready to receive us. Through Mr. Chamberlain we may be a deputation.

380

4-25-75

No. 2. Boston, March 11th, 1875.

Mr. H. P. Nye
G. Minister to the Peru,

My dear Sir

Yours in March ultimo
covering Your Gentlemen monthly data of the 8th inst. (Tempo
ary commercial data not available at the end) received yes
terday.

Since our return from Mexico (from
the latter country data regularly 8th. We 4 & 4th times
have sent you daily reports on the trade of Mex
ico in general only. We print weekly "Commercial
Letter" and mail it to Boston on any request to receive
of Americans; and the second on Tuesday. All mean
have received from your protection for already
rendered Boston and received particular evidence.
This American Colony of 14 people all total - 9 adults -
would duly respectfully ask continuance of your Gentlemen
in receiving such orders that are sent to you
by Boston. They will not in this letter
be specified as been the case reducing the year, as
I stated to you - in our letter No. 1. Now if not this
Colony + that needs your strongest protection
all the facilities that should be afforded the Consular
Corp - in transmitting our mail to Mexico
the postal - has not been provided with the
If possible, these and kindred topics should appear
only be no fault of our part, more especially as

380

4-22-95

No. 2

Bitlis, March 11th 1895

Judge A. W. Terrel
U. S. Minister to the Porte,

My dear Sir:

I am in much doubt whether mine to Your Excellency under date of the 6th inst. (though by oversight the date was not inserted at the end) reached you or not. Since my return from Mousul your two telegrams dated respectively Feb. 26th & 27th have been sent me by Turkish post at the hands of our preacher in Mousul City. The first reads "Government has telegraphed orders to Bitlis at my request for security of Americans: and the second as follows, All measures having been taken for your protection you should return to Bitlis and avoid outside correspondence". This American Colony of 14 souls all told - 9 adults - would duly recognize the kindness of your Excellency in securing such orders, that are good so far as they go, and which we sincerely hope will not in this latter case work by opposites as was the case respecting the post, as reported to you in my letter No. 1. Was it not this same sort that made even stronger professions of all the facilities that should be afforded the famous Com - on thorough investigation, and just as though the opposite had not been carried out just the same.

However, these and kindred topics should apparently be no hard of my pen, more especially if we think no chance to complain of [illegible]

catch the proper import of your 2d telegram in the closing rather peremptory clause, viz; "avoid outside correspondence". We trust some written explanation of such summary direction is to be given, since all of our friends may be said to be outside, and they are very impatient to hear us write, & that too in plain language, and among them Your Excellency's Consul M. A. Jewett Esq. at Sivas, who asks for even a weekly letter. Our Board's Foreign Secy has also more than once asked for as full reports as might be prudent, since so many here running upon their Rooms for information from this particular field. He is as that felt he should have a Consul here for our own safety, and felt if we were apprehensive in these lines, and here to apply as we have to You & Sivas, some arrangement would be made.

However, it would seem we are to rely on Sublime (!) assurances rather than actual hand to hand visitation of civil officials; if this be so there can be little use in our reporting further on the situation, lest we be set down as timid, when in reality some of us faced the cannon in picking up wounded Turkish soldiers on the battle field in the late war about Erzroom, and are not given to showing the "white feather" easily. We had thought of moving our families down to Marsovan, but Mr. Knapp Sen. is bedridden so that it would be impossible to think of getting him there alive, and hence we are forced to hold on as we are, whatever the result. Further than this I need not speak. If American diplomacy at present means to leave 14 subjects so exposed on the strength of such professions of safety as Your telegram

refer to; or, perchance, base it on the fact of Consuls being assigned to Erzroom & Harpoot months on in the future when presumably the greatest danger will be over, then he might as well cease to write on the subject. I might say that it has been our custom for some years to spend some weeks each winter at Mousch in supervision of our important missionary work of that part of the field, where we have in different places some 1400 Prot. adherents, with one ordained evangelist, two licensed preachers, three male & two female teachers, with nearly 200 pupils in our five schools. This winter it was not till after Tahsin Pasha was deposed that we ventured over at all, and then to remain only 12 days to encourage our storm-tossed people and helpers. Less than half of which time we gave to Mousch city proper. Well known as we are in this region naturally poor abused, mangled humanity turned much to us for sympathy, even our religious meetings being overrun, while in one case a most important witness unbeknown to us fell into our premises, and was tolerated for some hours while most desperate search for him was being made with mal pretense. At nightfall he was passed to fellows of his who succeeded in entering him at the Com^n the following day.
On returning here to Bitlis I find that one Hadji Yahib, the head of the Mousch fanatics had come on here, & seeks to incite those of his bent to irregularities. A few days ago an affray between two of opposite faiths might have set a serious ball rolling only that the x^n was almost wholly alone & took a terrible beating at the hands of those who

4/ Called out "Finish the heathen", &c.

Before closing I wanted to make slight reference to our preacher at Moush, Mr. Hagop Mirzoian. Of course special attention is turned on those from faith then times, and when he arrived at M. I said he was convinced his state was critical, and that he might have to leave. Already culprits have stoned his windows, though as yet they dont come out into the open, but do it secretly. Could you do anything to protect him as our paid agent? Though a preacher he may be said to pay all his salary. The contributions of the people not more than covering incidentals. I remember years ago (during the 16 he was located at Erzroom) our helper in Kerasoun on the Black Sea coast was pitched into the street - himself & family - from persecution in that city. I consulted our minister at the time, Mr. Maynard I think it was, and he said if the man was paid by us and living in a house in our name, he could protect him as he would an American. This worthy young man is much discouraged, and if worst comes to him he may flee here for our protection, and would we hold out in such a case, or must they be passed over to such terrific incarceration! Of course we hope for the best for him and all of our helpers as well as ourselves, but the future looks dark indeed. It seems hard to think that such faithful workers for their race may perhaps, be left to suffer which others fleeing their country long enough to in some short way, perchance, gain such American citizenship as claims protection, escape.

Yours very respectfully - R. M. Cole -

~~Erzerum~~ Bitlis, March 11. 1895.

Rec'd Apr. 23.

Rev. Thomas Stoney, who
Dr. Bolton, which
Mrs. L. L. Jones
Dr. Barton, D. D. Dr. Gillespie
Dr. Barton; Rev. Mr. Butler
Mr. Mills, Mr. Mills
Mr. Mills, Mr. Mills
Mr. Mills, Mr. Mills

while the funeral exercises are to be held the following morning, of which we cannot report till next week's Post. It bids fair to be an especially interesting occasion on many accounts. This worthy father of the work in these parts has seen troublous times in this city those early years. He felt forced to buy a house because for love or money he could not prevail upon the enemies to allow him a suitable place in which to dwell. But now, and even sometime since he is offered the freedom of all these numerous church yards & monasteries for a last resting place for the tired head they now hold in such high respect. It seeming pleasanter upon the whole to have the precious remains deposited in our own church yard, yet it has been highly appreciated to have them make this generous offer, and leads us to feel all the more gratified to make way for some leading Gregorians to take part in the burial rites, as they have already indicated their desire to do. We trust that the Lord is at the helm of all ~~matters~~ regulations, and that by His own disposal of matters in these parts there is to be great progress in His works. The status generally turns all eyes towards Rot & missionaries in particular. But I do no more than drop you these lines, though the news proper you will have by wire in a short time. The inclosed will explain themselves & indicate I have acted as per what you hint in yours so encouraging of 28th Jan. at hand by this last Post. The sketch of Mr. K. is like what I sent Dr. Strong all the time it was published in The Christian, London. I asked that he might pass that on to my friends at the Home, but it seems to have been forgotten. Perhaps that may have been mis-

Rev. R. M. Cole
Bitlis, March 12, 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D. Boston, Mass. 382

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-11-95
Ans'd

Billie March 14. 1895

Our dear Friends:-

This has been a day of rare significance in the history of this station. Father and chief was to be borne out to his last resting place on this the 3d day from his decease, but we hardly looked for such an ovation on the part of Gregorians of every grade from the commonest street vagrant up to the town magnate who may boast of his position as tradesman, city official or clerical of high degree. An order from the chiefs had been issued that out of respect to the dead all places of business in the market should be closed, and most betook themselves to the place of interment.

As we stated in our communication of two days since propriety of circumstance as well as the desire of the family led us not to accept the Gregorian cordial proposal to grant the good man one of the best burial places their various churches or monasteries might afford. But we generously shared with them in all the honors to be shown the departed one in these last rites - they holding as prominent and almost equal number of places on the programme, as ourselves. The leading priests with all their gaudy, expensive clerical robes, and select surplised singers with the paraphernalia of a noted burial service - are in waiting. Considering all the experience of early years,

when keen opposition left no little prejudice to rankle in the hearts of the more aged, it was quite an innovation to have old church functionaries follow in quick succession the American ecclesiastic prayer and scripture selections in chants and intonations from their church book. Together they all sit upon one and the same pulpit platform as if of the same family, while various speakers eulogize the good man's deeds. Few were disposed to turn back to the dark days of the past, when embarrassment was on every hand, but to face forward with new hope for the future. He was spoken of as a pioneer of new principles and doctrines, one whose tongue had been given pain, "an apostle in whom was no guile". These foreign workers had brought in education, and been instrumental in elevating Armenian diction in Turkey; had begotten within the race new impulses of a higher manhood amid more propitious surroundings. After a protracted service of more than three hours including a brief service in English at the house, that at the church was brought to a close by affording the vast audience an opportunity to look for the last time upon the wan, peaceful face of him now the loved of all. Eagerly they file past the coffin, not a few reverently kissing the cold hand folded placidly across a breast so recently stirred with sympathy for humanity. As our Protestants had constituted the cortege on

Thus it is that amid the dark environments we have been called to pass through this ordeal also incident to the call of death. But intense sympathy has turned towards us — all the more for the mutual sympathy springing up among us arising from misfortune that has come upon certain of their members of late — sympathy — form of a clearer understanding on the part of outsiders as to what our religion is made up of, and the unselfish motive that actuate the workers, leading them to sorrow for any phase of down-trodden suffering humanity.

R. M. Cole.

coming from the house to the church, so now in going from the door to the grave in this yard near by, the priests and singers with all their retinue led us with such chants and intonations as is their wont.

After we had lowered into its last place the sleeping one and ended our service proper, again they take it up - chanting the rest of the soul and other important parts in their form of burial. As we make our way through the dense phalanx of the throng outside we realize more than ever what a multitude had congregated. Large as is our own congregation, they are lost in the outside multitude - the whole numbering by actual count nearly 2000.

As Malem saw all wending their way towards the Prot. chapel they wondered what it could mean. One of them so very carefully questioned a Bugonian as to what person could have died to cause such a commotion, who was he, what his religion &c. To render clearer who he was the men spoke of him as distinguished in religious matters, and intentionally added "like one of your sheiks". "Why!" said the man "you compare a Christian to one of our sheikhs! If he was to salt salt to the amount of our citadel he couldn't equal that", and such a contest of words follows as but for the intervention of others they might have come to a rivaling blow!

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-11-95
Ans'd

Bitlis, March 19/95

Dear Dr. Barton;

Presumably others of the circle may be writing you in view of news that you will have had by wire; so I will give you nothing more than this informal note that I inclose with copy of what has been written of the funeral services of Mr. Knapp, and I send it per Dr. Parmelee again, as that seems a safer way upon the whole. Moreover, so far as our correspondence is concerned it seems much safer now than in Tahsin Pasha's time. We were glad to get yours of the 11th ult. by last post. As to Mr. Jewett's coming on here, ask'd or no ask'd, as you hint (all of which we have made known) there evidently is not any hope while Mr. Terrel is at the head. All he has done so far as appears to us, is to strike us three or four

brief telegrams - one stating our posts were not to be interfered with, two days after which 10 - 20 of our letters were opened and among them a very important registered package.
The letters were re-iterations of how our safety had been demanded and assured. Hitherto it has been better carried out than was the case as to those letters, referred to above. Not a few seem to think it would be bad policy for the G. to allow anything else but how much thought is given to policy when red-hot fanatics get going as at Salonica or in Sassoun in fact. We have the chief of the moush fanatics here in B. for some weeks trying to incite something here, and twice serious balls were well nigh set rolling. Still, hitherto we dwell in safety and why should missionary workers count on common diplomatic agents, - that is the right of commercial agents, bee & bug hunters to be sure!!
We thus remain are in usual health & send on this note of cheer.

Yours as ever R. M. Cole.

Oct. 19, 95

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-5-95
Ans'd 5

Many thanks for Christian. Your assurance respecting the situation at Bassa Cove

Rev. Dr. Barton, D. D.
Sir

Bitlis March 26. 1895

You will really think, as is the actual fact, that I am the secretary of our Station, from the amount that comes from my pen, whether of interest or not, these days. Again I inclose what I send the "Christian" of London for a sketch of the late good pastor Simon of this field. If you do not care to run it through your next neighbor, Dr. Strong, may care for it. I will be able to send a photograph of the good man to him next week I hope. The past two Posts I have sent you accounts of the death and burial of Mr. Knapp Sen., inclosing his picture and sketch as it appeared in the Christian last June. I send those per Dr. Parmelee, and hope they will have come to hand. As our postal arrangements seem much safer of late I think I will send direct, and run the risk, using from the 20 printed envelopes you have kind enough to mail us one or two posts since. Yours of the 11th ult. and also yours to Dr. Parmelee of same date, and which he forwarded to us, came by our last outside Post, two weeks since. In Dr. P's you feared I might not have received yours advising Dr. Jewett's coming on to Bitlis. He received that letter, and I have quoted from it to Dr. J. as well as elsewhere in support of the coming of this official as I had previously hinted in strong terms. However, Pres. Cleveland & Judge Terrell have their peculiar ways of foreign diplomacy, and we must abide it, trusting that the Higher Power will hold us up. As for myself I faced the cannon at Erzin in '77 & '78 and ought to be equal to ordinary emergency here, only as home governments are supposed not to be a sinecure, and as many ladies and children are involved we should not say 'vain is the help of man'.

If letters may hereafter go through all right (and I begin by numbering them at the top for the present as you see) there is much

Wheeling gets down.

to say from under the fog. Yes, Sassoun is still shut in, as you hint, and witnesses from the region, that have escaped, have had great difficulty in getting before the Com^n at Erzerum. One would think it was a crime that any of them remain alive. The Power, giving up hope of concealing of matters, has of late worked just as desperately to show that not Sol^s but Kurds did all the mischief, though this, too, is proving a failure, for was it not heroic Zakhin Pasha that had it published at Constn that the Kurds had done nothing, and the troops only punished a few Armenian bandits? Given enough rope and the "unspeakable" may hang himself. We are floating in various rumors these days, mostly made up in market, no doubt. New arrivals of outsiders in M. with 25000 Sol^s from the north already in Eng for at least 8 mos' stay to secure safety, we are among the category. Would that we were as wise in some such things as your antipodes are. By the way, from yours to Dr. P. it would seem there is to be a compilation of information on matters this way - in N.Y. perhaps it was. I wish very much some of your good friends would see that some such thing, or clippings from the papers on the subject, might be put by till in some safe way & time - possibly soon & by post, may come out to let us know what has been said & done. Perhaps friend Swett will have an eye to this. Our "London Times", N.Y. Tribune, "Review of Reviews" "Missionary Heralds" even, &c. fail to reach us yet; so you can see how longing we wait for news.

Thanks for the good cheer you give us in yours to me of 11th ult. We try to do our duty as I did M. way even when a Dred Scott refugee case was unexpectedly brought upon me and if you should get any garbled report coming from the touch of such as our chief civilian official at the capital don't prejudge till without a hearing, which better not be sent on from here at present.

Our Bairam guns are to boom out in the morning and we must go and call on the acting governor, Omar bey, which will be my 3d call on him. Frequent threats of worse fanatics are still common though if these three festive days can pass as with no riot the outlook will be brighter, more especially if the M. Com^n is to move on here next week, as is reported on good authority. The fields are truly ripe for the harvest in all our regions, - the rush upon us by leading Gregorians being almost constant. Would that our B. ch. & cong^n were in a better state to facilitate the ingathering we trust is soon to come. They have not decided on a preacher, and as they did not contribute to the Sord's teacy on preaching proper are withdrawn and till May - in some mos. - two of their number, one Mr. K's old assistant Br Nasoontime you may have heard of in Afr, and a Dr. Sarail once a helper. O for the Spirit's presence with us!

Bitlis. March 26. '95

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-11-95
Ans'd

385

Bitlis April 1st 1895

Dear Mr. N. C. Dwight;

Yours of the 2d ult. only reached me last night after dark - the post having been long in the passage up. We are very glad indeed for the full explanations and for the light on which they were received. We confess to some surprise that more Bitlis letters have not come to hand hitherto for, sending off communications almost every week, as Mr. Peet is, a line inserted in his envelope would excite no extra suspicion.

Of course no missionary has anything to do with forwarding documents of revolutionists to "his accomplices abroad" or anywhere else; and the fact of such a charge coming from that Mr. Blair should have acted in a reverse order just as a similar one entered against Mr. R. M. Donald at Oroomiah did when that deputed Commissioner found the Chief on the Bosphorus with withdrawing it at once.

As a matter of special favor to some of our people who have family friends in America we have allowed their outgoing & incoming letters to pass through our hands, just as many do through theirs. Still, but we adjure them that nothing of doubtful character enter them, still and it doubtless may sometimes delay them for a time. Would Mr. Peet do more than this by way of caution?

As to the case of the witnesses at Mr. Coe's explained to us by Mr. Chambers, it was wholly à l'improviste - springing upon us unawares just as our meeting for gathering for our Sunday morning service. Though the Comm.n had sent two men (and a fellow witness who had testified before them where the man was, and a zaptieh) to bring them from a neighbouring village, before their arrival there 6 or 8 zaptiehs had been sent by the local authorities to the village in different directions to find

Boston, Mass. 1850

Dear Sir, M. C. Brazelli:

Yours of the 2 inst. was received in due time, and I have delayed answering it, that I might be able to give you a definite answer. We are now prepared for a full supply of Lumber, and yet the demand is not equal to our expectations. We can place it above our wharves at Boston, and yet we have facilities for receiving and transporting it to any part of the country. Perhaps you would be willing to make a trial shipment on this side of the mountains.

If you wish to be informed from time to time of the prices of lumber, we will furnish it, if you will inform us of your address.

We have no agent for any thing of the kind, but we shall be pleased to receive your orders.

Should you have occasion to make a purchase of any kind of lumber, we would be happy to receive your orders, and we would endeavor to give satisfaction.

As a matter of general interest to those of your people who have friends or acquaintances in these United States, I will say that we have at present a very large number of Irish emigrants, who are anxious to find employment, and who are willing to go any where, and do any thing for a living. Perhaps some of your friends may be in need of assistance?

As to the Cars of the Western R.R., they are finished as far as Springfield, 12 miles, and are running. Yours, &c.

[illegible]

him out of the way. As the villagers succeeding in keeping him out of the clutches of the furious, it was not strange they were afraid to produce the poor fellow for the latter, since they have seen many such beaten, and driven out of town - hindered in every way from appearing before the Comm^n. We did not wish to hold him in our premises, and on consultation with Mr. Shipley decided to have him sent to his friends as soon as practicable. But all the rest of the day we spent were dredging the town in hopes of bringing out this first-cousin, going some of the wounded so they might banish him beyond recovery. Not succeeding in this, at dusk we passed him over to his companions who by strategic manoeuvring entered him at the Comm^n the next day. Thus much by way of repetition in case that at the hands of Mrs. Chambers failed to reach you. I might add that in all our movements we were in close advice with Mr. S. who kindly accepted the request of our circle that he act for us in a consular capacity so far as he could from the M. Base, should special emergency arise.

Judge Terrell gave an admirable reply as to why Mr. Cole had gone to M. so far as it went. But he should have been put on what, probably, occurred to you to state to him, that it has been the habit for some years (as indeed all the local officials know) to have several weeks every winter at M. in superintendence of about half of our station field and some of the most important of our work - which have upwards of 400 Prot. adherents in the city and five more villages with five schools and some 200 pupils. This year, however, owing to the situation, I delayed my visit, and then made it very short, only spending 5 days in the city itself. Of course such a year as this there was much more need for us (& Miss Mary Ely accompanied me, as she often does to visit old pupils from Miss Pierce's Girls Sch., and do much among the women) to visit our poor storm-tossed people and 6

teachers and preachers there. (3) But over and above this, notwithstanding risk on the way, we were in desperation to come into some kind of communication with friends & the outside world, and at the same time he could advise with such as Mr. S. looking to the future and what relation he might assume as to us. Greatly to him and his Govt we found him ready to do anything he could for us consistent with his pressing duties and the relations he was in, though he suggested that he thought our Embassy should do something this much & no more covered the intent of our brief visit, and what little other entered in was purely accidental, arising from sympathy for you, so abused humanity as one who has a heart must have, as you know. But even in this case not a word would been spoken, or co-operative sympathy bestowed had the Govt been true to its public professions as to have every facility should be afforded for thorough investigation. Somewhere, somebody acted a little as they in high places should have acted, & hence complaints. But on perceiving how poor refugees were being beaten off into total neglect, hunger, in some cases prison, as they should not get before the Comm., and how in every way it seemed handicapped for the local authorities so it could not carry forward what had been asserted as its legitimate work, what wonder that our feelings were very and cease to be wholly neutral, more especially on seeing how very appreciative the Christian part of the body was for our needs. Of course we are servants of the Govt & wish it well so far as it lives up to its professions, and ceases to oppress & so abuse humanity. You of years and versed in the history of the late war about Eng. know something of how Cobden sympathy went out towards poor struggling British soldiers in the trenches and on the battle field, as would their wounded & sorrow fathers as new scores of other Brokers in Eng to-day, distress of extra. But to-day it

is another branch of the one great family that is to witness, exercise, and who can keep silent, if loyal to the Gospel, Neh. 13:3.

Of course we have no profession for Mr. Jewett, but speak of him as being more available than any other, though as a matter of fact he is almost the worse off, as the death of his late wife has been intolerable about it. More good.

As for his request I am writing this official about every a week of cost.

By the way, it has been some surprise to us that for the three or four letters any associate Mr. G. P. Kenyon and I have written Judge Terrell direct we have not a scratch from his pen nor any thing to indicate they may not have suffered from what we complained of to him at the hands of the Shanghai post. Three or four brief telegrams reached us, one sent in such a perverting way as to imply going home and avoiding outside correspondence, as to call for some special written explanation seems to me. I was already at home when a hieroglyph, sent in Eng. via Moscow, reached me, but as far as more outside correspondence when all our friends are there, nearly, what can be his meaning, we wonder. I sent him one "Cyphered" tel. but got no reply. After a week's delay he. Post-possibly at his suggestion telegraphed that the Embassy felt the need of a consul to arrange it, which we instantly took to mean that he had to go to the capital and fetch it. This seemed to be the expectation of Butler in town generally from the first, as he then he did not come it was looked upon as a surrender here and obviously that was the impression left on the Mr. Consulate.

We have been hoping some relief of consuls, if nothing more, would come in by a time leave our region, but if such is not to be the case (I a remark in your letter like it) I wish you would telegraph us "Draw $ 500 on Mission", when we might remove our families there, though for myself personally I have no thought of leaving my post.

With thanks to all for sympathy & prayers, Sincerely

R. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-5-95
Ans'd 15

No. 2.

Bitis, April 2. 1895

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Yours of Feb. 18th at hand by this last post, and perhaps I might do worse than send on the inclosed copy of an article thought of for the N.Y. Tribune or Harpers. I send the original to our son Frederick W. Cole, A.B. 19 East 59th St. 3d Floor, N.Y., and if you, perchance, you should consider it very hazardous to have it go into print over a nom de plume, you could stop it by writing Fred; but put in this way I see no objection that could arise from its publication, and coming on top of what has been said of Cleveland's policy in China it might do good. At all events we have been indignant at the course taken as to Mr. Jewett. He has to come up here, then not to come, - vaccilating this way and that - till it has become a disgrace not only before leading Turks who seem to have known of it from the first, as also before the M. Consuls who felt our Embassy should do something. Next week I may send you a copy of mine to Mr. Dwight who writes me at length by this post speaking of his efforts with Judge Terrell in trying to secure matters for us, possibly in having

Bitis April 2, 1895

Mr. J. Come. Still there was no hope since Mr. J. is so cringing to the S. that he feels it would not do to have him come as an irritating element. It seems more quiet of late, and our letters are not tampered with — the incoming ones; as for the others, you outsiders must be the judges. But our hopes are very irregular. Our first Missionary Herald — that for March — for some months, found its way through this post. We see by some of the papers, or possibly it was the Herald, that Mr. Ward is forced to drop work for a time on ac of health & that Dr. Strong has seriously ill. The Lord give health & strength to one & all! Our girls are in usual health. Mrs. Knapp seems is bearing up well under her affliction. I hoped to have had our late pastor Simon's photo in hand to send with this to accompany the sketch I gave of the good man if Dr. Strong could use it. Think shall send have it next week. The Eng. member of Mt. Com^n writes us this post that their coming here is uncertain for time and fact even. Certain it is if no relay comes in before they leave the regions there is going to be great danger from this surging mass of fanatics about. This much for my No. 2. Shall risk sending direct, unless some new revelation comes to light.

Sincerely &c R. M. Cole.

Rec. Dec. 7th. Cole
Oitlis, April 2, 55.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-15-95
Ans'd 5

the Commencement exercises. Certainly a very interesting, but as the country, I believe, the doubtful, smell of the blood has deeply tainted our usually trusted officials to the extent of making them forgetful of the sacredness of correspondence! The letters should all come to hand. Yours of Feb. 25th came to Marion so much disorganized that we have not received more than two posts since. So far as we know letters are not tampered with now – certainly incoming ones, while outside testimony like yours gives us encouragement that our going ones are equally safe. But as much can be said of our newspapers that are increasingly irregular, while some do not come at all. We hope you friends outside may keep us in mind as you see important clipping on the question, perhaps slipping into light letters now & then one or two of them, while sometime – in God's own way & time we may come to know what the Xn world has thought & said this really the doing part is what we care more about. Jan. & Feb. Heralds also didn't come to us. Thanks for your information as to $50 for Girls School. This was indeed timely, and resulted, as Miss Mary Ely tells me from an incidental allusion to the debt at the close of her late letter to N. B.. We poor A. B. C. people plead & plead from beginning to end of our letters, and echo answers – silence. The "one ought to be done but the other not left undone"? Apparently our A B C of Missions; possibly we need to begin at the bottom of the alphabet and read upwards! How I have plead

+ Adventures in Missionary Work since we are not merely teachers, Ministry, &c. R. W. Cole

for such a center as Moosh with its teeming thousands, but all in vain hitherto. To improve the only building we have there, that was in danger of falling, we had to sort of borrow the £75 voted by N. B. in hopes we might return it so a purchase be made elsewhere in town to accommodate the Girls Sch.; but at present rate how or when it is to be done is more than we know. The repaired building is serving the sch. & its teacher, graduate of the Bible Inst. Holyoke, as also another one, wife of Br Hager, the preacher there; while the poor Boys Sch. of more & increasing importance of late, has to go begging up & down wherever we can rent a place.

And here let me suggest that this place is to be counted important by others - perhaps English, whose attention is naturally so turned on this region of late, just as has been true of Catholics for years; and if we want to secure the field and work to our Board we should take hold of it as has not been done hitherto. If only suitable buildings were in hand I should be in favor of occupying the place with my family, at least for the full winter - a great encouragement being that already we have upwards of 400 Prot. adherents in four near villages, which the leaven has extend many more. But by our indifferent way of holding the place we invite others to enter in, as the Catholics have done, putting up new, expensive buildings & increasing their clerical force the past few years. Would you had seen the place & region, as you regretted, in a past letter, you had not, when you would

note how beautiful for situation it is for a clean growing city when proper municipal regulations may enter in, as is sure to be if other reforms come along. In all the region neighboring heights are covered with rich vineyards whose many two, if not three-story houses, plastered with the white clay of the region, are attractive objects and surrounding for such ones as seek summer resorts. Already funds are heard of as coming from other lands than ours as looking to the poor homeless survivors scattered here & there; that they may gather in their hairanik rebuilding their houses. Some of it likely to come into our hands if we consent to administer it; and now cannot you touch up sympathizers in this land to put in their contributions for a "Lassoun High Sch." in Moush City. Not only have we overrun with such poor refugees while in M., some covered over with ghastly scars but hundreds have crowded upon us here. Just now I put down my pen to talk with a company whose households nearly to the half rent in those horrid ways. One a little boy of some ten years whose father rent; while the past few days three other such boys told how their parents were mangled to the death as they saw, though they made their escape. But I better not yet be too lurid in such matters, some of which would make your blood curdle and be unbecoming oral reading. Like disembowling pregnant women to mangle the unborn seed, in some cases after betting on what the sex of the infant might be, as if they were at a game of marbles!! And yet the perpetrators of such fiendish work were "regulars" supposed to be the

to be the safeguard of any Govt and people, tho the responsibility has not so much with them as with superiors running up to the highest!
Yes, so far as "American interests" are concerned most likely our Texan at Consle would press for that, though all the direct visible sign we have seen, has been his few brief telegrams by way of repetition, he not deigning to give a scratch of his pen in reply to various letters from us, - so different from what the late Mr. Maynard of Tenn. then minister at Constn, under our dark war experiences at Eur, was - writing all the encouragement he could to us with his own hand in a long letter.
We have felt that we should be mindful that there is such a thing as being a brother's keeper for even U.S. notwithstanding a certain Monroe Doctrine. Partly at your suggestion that probably our Govt might be glad to deign upon safety of subjects to get its official this way with collateral considerations led us to pur. sue the matter more, possibly leading some to feel that we were showing the white feather, whereas some of us learned to face the cannon at Eur under late war.
We are more & more annoyed at the course of the 3 Govts in allowing their men to come up to M. so handicapped. One old helper discharged from our employ, but whom we expected to employ as winter teacher, has been in prison now for mos. there at M. all because he wrote his son here in B. sch. to 'wear two pairs of socks' & few other as harmless expressions, but the Eng. does not do anything apparently tho I spoke to him there & wrote him from here. Their coming has encouraged people to enter before

Bitlis, Apr. 16. 95.

1884 Februar 28 388

Schwarzenstein Depe

Geehrter Herr.

Beiliegend übersende ich Ihnen zur gefälligen Kenntnißnahme eine Depesche des Herrn Reichskanzlers, betreffend die Ausführung der Kongo-Akte.

Und bestimmt bin ich, Ihnen ferner die Abschrift der Depesche mitzutheilen, welche heute an den Herrn Botschafter in London gerichtet ist.

Ich bin

Ihr ergebener

Bismarck

Dear Sir,

Your trouble to read this & the other letter, but I have it on the authority of its bearer to be valuable. R. M. T.

[illegible]
[illegible] Augenblicke [illegible]
[illegible] Augenblick [illegible] "[illegible]
[illegible] Herz [illegible]
[illegible]"
"[illegible]
[illegible]"
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dear Dr. Barton: This may prime the gun for a speech. It shows difficulty of communication this having been secreted where it was this warm. Tho it is a year old & there is not so bad condition now yet it may serve as a feather in your quiver for the master. R. M. C.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-31-95
Ans'd 6-7

No. 4. (last no. called 3, but was forgotten)
389

Bitlis, April 30. 1895

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Yours of 13th & 27th ult. came through safe & in fair time - the 2d coming by last post. Yes, you rightly heard that many of your letters were opened in Tahsin Pasha's time, but we have not yet fixed such a thing on the present incumbent, though close scrutiny is had of our papers while the last post but one brought two letters that looked as though they might have been tampered with somewhere before coming to our hands. When full assurance may be ours there are many ridiculous things that may be said, but as they will keep good discretion leads us to forbear a little longer.

As for that "American interests" question, so often has Consul Jewett harped on that alone, as also Judge Terrell in his "one-only one" diminutive letter of four ~~forty~~ sentences on less than a page of note paper for space, that we are quite satiated in that line. Why didn't our Govt cry out "must go to the rescue", when such a ghastly crime against humanity had been perpetrated! It but not the people, as would appear, should hange the head at such a milk-&-water procedure - leaving the whole question of safety to its subjects, as well as sympathy for humanity to an official who can hardly bear the

name of Armenian, while he is so near to counting it a bother to look after these missionaries' that he has been quite ready to say there was no danger to those in B. and there was no need of protection'. Good enough for him if he has been fired upon in C. as is reported - though not to be hurt - so he can see if that much may be looked for in the "green tree, which of the dry"!

If that famous Monroe Doctrine is to convert our Nation's heart into a stone of stumbling for all such military intimidation as other Nations indulge in these times, then I say Let us put a different plank in, then for our old Magna Charta.

From what you write those Consuls are not to be on the ground till it is to be hoped there may be little need for them, more especially if they have no care whatever save for "American interests".

Having to turn to Eng. officials so much in matters pertaining to our people & schs. at large, why not do so for ourselves when apparently such officials are to be multiplied in the regions. Uncle Sam will save on his reputation not to appear at all at the Porte, than to make such a botch of it as has been done of late - leaving us poor non-claimant missionaries to be so far expatriated as to go begging after English protection, as I practically did when at Mosul recently.

We are very, very glad for the remittal of $50. from Providence, as also $200. from Worcester for poor, homeless, so abused, neglected refugees. We will see that the (parties) have properly written, punctuated, accentuated, &c, report of

their money, and for Worcester especially whose vartabed may in due time have besides such a communication from some of his ch. people this may as well make his cheek tingle! Even in the best times it is no easy task to administer such funds, and especially now when the Js are jealous, as if the middle wall of division between us & the Armenians were all down-and the latter, to a large extent, act like it was of late. But such ignorant, bigoted ecclesiastics as this one exist this side too, though their influence is fast waning. This last Sab. I preached twice at a near village, once to a crowd in the oda, at which service was present the village priest that only some 8 years since disgraced himself by attacking our High Sch. teacher & few brethren this week to have a meeting. He beat some with his own hand, bawled the Bible into the mud, &c. For the 2d service he and others spoke of our going to their church to which I assented, when not only the men & boys but women & girls as well crowded in to hear the badvelly. The V. vartabed is to be pitied for such a remark. How often we have been plead with by persons of his own ch. to be sponsors in their financial matters, when not such as he but higher ecclesiastics even up to their Constl patriarch were near at hand & would be the natural party. But we must not give up for such carpers, but keep right on trying to do what we can for humanity.
Hundreds of poor, neglected refugees have flocked on here to wander about in search of an only too scanty

charity of this town, and most of them find their way to us. Not a few of late finding rendezvous with in our own enclosure. We have already dealt out pounds on pounds to such pitiful cases, trusting remittals for this would be coming, allowing cloth for a few garments to cover their nakedness, as well as chacokhs (skin moccassins) & socks for their feet so cold & sore from coming over the snows part of the way, & barefoot, two three days to reach here. Only for such sensitiveness in certain quarters the particular regions should be visited in hopes that those who remain may be gathered into families once more under their own vine & fig tree, perhaps assisting them to seed for sowing, with a few oxen for plowing as well. Still such would be a great undertaking, while we hope some of the Powers may take hold of the matter so something may be carried out.

Now you see how our thoughts run, & here when I - whose turn it is - ought to be getting off a Station Report to you of the work proper, I am afraid you can guess whence it is in danger of beginning & where end, for what is to be expected of those who believe in & preach the good old Script^l - doctrines of being our 'brothers keepers' remembering that 'bound as being bound with them' &c. Mr. Monroe notwithstanding!

We are all in usual health & safety thanks God - not uncle Sam! How we long to be in the outside field - there never having been such a time for preaching & much need of sympathy & encouragement. Hastily, &c R. M. C.

Sitka. Apr. 30. '95

Ohio, Sec. 95

Rev. R. M. Cole 5

Bitlis, May 7/95

ear Dr. Strong; Filed June 3.

We trust the sketch of the late
ev. Simon Savitian will have
ached you and I hoped to have
ut the photo cabinet size ere this
ut the half size the person who
ought it on from Constn seems
have lost all save one I sent
n to be used in the "Christian", Eng.
ut I send on one of sitting pos-
ure this will serve well I
ust. As was stated in the sketch
astor S. was a Sassoun man,
nd his death was thought to have
een hastened from news at hand
f the terrible massacre in his native
egion. Relatives of his, among the
oor refugees, have been to our
oor here in B. and report that
everal relatives - ~~cousins~~ nephews, &c. were
nassacred, as Mugro, Steppo, Sarkis
ogop & a bride, Nurgo. It will

also to be of interest to you & more
more to your next neighbor, Dr
Barton to know that another of
our most successful preach
Khaching Vartanian one of Dr.
late pupils at the Theol. Semin
Harpoot, was also from that sam
region. All are in usual
health & join in greetings &c
R. M. Co

P. S. Should you not care to use
the pho. or any such I may send
you and you would take alon
out home I will ask our Pro
to call for them so he may keep
them for us. R. M. C.

Please drop me a Postal if
this & the Sketch come to hand

J. L. B.
6-10-95-

390

No. 5.

Bitlis, May 14. 1895

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Yours of the 13th ult. just at hand and I hasten to assure you that hardly a Post has gone off for a sometime without something from my pen, though dashed off hastily for the most part owing to circumstances. You dont speak of my Feb. 12th letter referring to our situation here, & need this we know as to the future, when the Com^n might withdraw from Mosul, though you had rec^d mine of Feb. 19th. Yes, there was a "flurry about our going to M." to spend only a few days this year in place of about as many weeks other years to look after the almost half of our missionary field & work, and I was somewhat tried that apparently Mr. H. C. D. happening to be at the Embassy when the envoy came to ask why Mr. C. had gone there, he does not seem to have spoken out as though he was aware that we took up temporary occupation there every winter, & why not a few days at least this. Thanks many for all the activity & interest you exhibit in seeing that our Gov^t does its duty, and the near presence of three war vessels will be a good solvent in Oriental problems. Thanks for the clipping. Would we might have hundreds of those so often coming before you in this land; for we now get almost no papers that treat of the question - only very few of

the religious with an occasional local, while apparently some letters are again being lost - probably detained at C., as we doubt if such be done here, there being no readers. We may telegraph Consul again on the subject, so they may know. Christians are much disheartened at Eng.'s course. It does seem as though the three Powers have managed strangely. They come up as if to investigate the Sassoun question, carry on investigations handicapped in every way in M. City, report on the same, a Budget is made up, sealed & apparently submitted to H. S. M. even before they (the consuls) have set foot in the province. On going there they saw such appalling things, as impress them, apparently, more than anything previous, but the query is how that part is now to enter a scheme already submitted. They are planning to leave the Xn population all exposed, to withdraw to Erz., tho Xns Moush may are putting in strong protests. Meanwhile plunder outrages, &c, are being renewed to the north of our field (there having been a brief lull after arrival of consuls) by the Kurds. Two women outraged in their own house in our preacher Bn Khachig's village Shekhaghoub, as is well affirmed, tho Bn Kh. dares not dare write, appearing. The only way to reform matters this way is to start up de novo so far as responsible power is concerned. the ruling agency being from without treating outlaws as on one and the same plain - equally - so far as they show themselves worthy of such without distinction of race or religion. - There is some doubt as to propriety of having Ar. meeting this year, some voting against having one. He at B. voted for one at Erz July 10 as per Mr. Le's request. I ought to have gotten off to you sometime for Station Report ere this, & may hope to in a post or two. Hoping & K. M. Lee all in usual health & safety.

Bitlis, May 14. '95

R. M. Cole.

Boston, May 21, 1866

h to you in familiar correspondence
of all that you see at Warpoot.
I hope in a post or two to send on the
lation Report to be submitted to the coming
ual meeting, if we have one. We voted for
e at our July 10th while Martin and
w. Drury voted against one this year,
s also Messers Allen & Wheeler at Hpt.
are in doubt as to what propriety the
hange of a few days may suggest to us.
We must needs walk by faith rather than sight.
It would seem from yours to Mr. Knapp
that the Rs case is again likely to come
before our meeting after all, probably from
persistence in some quarter, as I re-
call that some time ago you wrote you
considered their case was not before the
meeting, or rather Mission, as the

Mardin meeting had accepted his
voluntered resignation. Apparently
no other Station of E. T. would invite
as such hints have broached at Mar
we have been told, and if they were to come
back to Erzrum the Rs would leave at once
There is to be this consolation if their co
(the Rs') does come up, they are not there to
mix the natives with the problem, as seem
their method quite too much.

Poor Erzroom is so unfortunate in
these matters. I must say in this fami
personal letter that Miss Chambers a
somewhat like a "crank", as were Miss B
and Miss Preston of that Station before
It does seem such a pity that our
B. friends, or some body, are not mo
careful in what they send out, for three
such ones right along in a row at o
and the same Station is rather too muc
It would seem Miss C. is much im
proved in health at Trebizond, an

tunities of returning to Erzrum again, but
against the Ex though the Cattle & the mac.
t her down as on their side till March
eeting time. The whole affair is trying.
e friends seem to feel I should go on
the Erzrum meeting, as Br. P. went to Mar-
ii. It is going to be difficult for me to be
away, as what is done for poor refugees
d way of setting them up in this region
ould be entered upon just as soon as
onditions will allow. They flock to our
oors here from where they have been this winter
e Moush plain, and we make small al-
wances in money, & cloth for undergarments
be the outer ones as well, for the worst cases.
o much our heads, hearts & time have been
bsorbed these months in such ways.
By the way, that bomb in "Times" of Nov. 9th was
om he owned day where, and seemed enough
o convert that hope "inclined to be skepti-
l on the report previous" into believing.
omething we sent bro. Dwiggy about this time

through his forwarding to E. M. Bliss of the
Independent seems to have been strong
to start that journal up, as E. M. broke
and was enough to convince him, who, to
was in not a little doubt as to matters
When the same copied reached Chicago the "Inter
Ocean" sent reporter to Mr. D's friend wishing
to publish the letter fac simile for more effect
And so things have gone on - the Lord guided
all things, as we can speak of now - and
trust to be for the good of humanity & Christ
Kingdom. The Lord enter in to clear up all
the difficulties before His own Kingdom
We are sorry to see that the state of the Gen. Ch
does not improve much. The great trouble
seems to be not so much lack of money
as that so much is tied up in "Specials"
Think of the thousands going to that rich
Christ people for a Papazian that made
friends in U.S. & as of Kritzian of Zeo
and also some of our missionaries as over
for our pet schemes. I hope we may not lose
our confidence in correspondence by so

Rec'd
Ans'd 7-15-91

Boston, May 28, 1895

Dr. Barton:

Yours of May 14th came to hand yesterday - pretty good doing to get it within the same month. You wrote it considering those peculiar times. Though I did not number it as if official, but I wrote you familiarly last week - 21st inst.

You hope we shall continue to report interests of Americans & mission property to Mr. Terrell. We confess we have not done so to him direct very much for the reason that he has made no proper acknowledgement of our letters sent him. I have written our Sivas Consul pretty regularly and he passes it on in his dispatches to C., while he has quoted to us what Judge T. has sometimes said on matters important, but not as to our letters. As Mr. T. and those like him interpret that part of a Monroe Doctrine such times as these, they can do nothing outside of purely "American interest" and that apparently come in so late in parts remote like these that "protection of interests" would take on the form only of seeking to extort blood money (redress) from such a Govt. which, too, would be likely to prove abortive, as in the case of the late Dr. Parsons of Bardezag! It would seem we must be strange missionaries, and thus we are showing the white feather, to be all the while

broaching American interests when with us the great concern is for this so abused humanity. They throng us these days - all the more because Monah region has been forced to leave them (the refugees) for three months, and it, too, is brought down to starvation's door. As I write a formidable & official paper signed by five chief prelates of the region (among them our preacher at M.) reaches me giving a list of 65 that have died of hunger exposure and hardship - some of them among the mts without shelter food or clothing - not a few literally living to exist on greens & roots. Our friends that way, as well as we here, are doing what they can to save life; but such suspicion rests on all that who dares move boldly on even in this the humanitarian line, since the Js choose to misinterpret all. I am trying to get consular indorsement to push over that way again for the purpose of seeing what arrangement may be made for getting the poor creatures up among their native hills once more, but they (consuls) seem powerless to even advise, at least the M. man only writes us occasionally speaking as though he had received our letters without referring at all to their contents. Thus it is we are hedged in on work for humanity, too, as well as for mission work proper. The M. Gov't - right in face of consuls of the Powers calls our preacher enjoining upon him to turn back all save his own Prot. people from the chapel service. Our man replied that he could do as that as the doors were open, but he could not sign or refer it to his superiors (us). We shall see what comes of it.

Nostly & manual traffic.

Mon. Oct. 28. 75

No. 7. 393

Bitlis, June 5th 1895

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

It is just possible Mr. Knapp may write you, as he spoke of it; but as the Report to be read before the Mission meeting if there be one is ready I might send you on a copy. If it may have no other merit let it have that of not being too late, though you may have no use for it. Pardon its being on thin paper, as it saves writing. Last Sunday we were both out in near villages for preaching. Mr. Knapp for the first time this season - when the acting vali sent a man requesting us to call on him. We got back home rather late, and didn't wish to call Sun. anyway. Monday, however, I went for the usual Bairam call, when he opened up what he wished to say, though pleasantly enough. "We had reports to the Embassy there was danger to us especially, where was it? who threatened us," &c. I said "Yes, there is danger - not a few threats, some of which I have heard with my own ears. I also spoke of the poverty & destitution. "Yes," he said "there were many Dalvorig people about, but this money has to be given them by a Com^n of x^ns & Turks." Yes, I said, money has been offered but, whether the Gov^t favors it or not, notes & other sealed papers are demanded of the parties." "That must be a mistake," &c. But in the end he seemed to yield to what I said & closed by saying much of the poverty & trouble about was owing to bad governors & other officials in the past, and because the races had

lost confidence in one another. – rather good though indirect testimony against feasibility of the races working on together, and reform attempted same by strong outside power that shall use native talent only as servants.
We still live in uncertainty. Most of our troops are being sent off to regions south of Van, but where for we know not.
We get almost no papers. An Eng. Consul's letter containing clippings from papers, & coming here by mistake, was opened by our post mudir, as two trusty witnesses tell us – perhaps the Consul being of Eng., the witnesses thought it might be Angora –
All well & dwell in safety. Sincerely Yr

R. M. Cole –

Oroomia, June 5, 95

[illegible]

P.S. Dear Mr. Yeaman & Mr. Rennie
I have also received the 6-days
[illegible] & [illegible]
[illegible] & [illegible]
[illegible] being
[illegible] in
[illegible] Mr.
[illegible] in Mr.
[illegible] Kon
[illegible] Pasha
[illegible] Sheen
[illegible] from
[illegible] the
[illegible] regions
[illegible] in
[illegible] !
R. H. G.

Dear Sir,

Your telegram announcing £50 remittal for the poor refugees, as also regarding a letter, came to hand Saturday noon the 8th inst. Heaven bless the kind donors! We had already passed on nearly £50, in company with £100 Gregorians & Prots here in Batts had raised to be administered if possible by a committee. Monistic though it may be necessary for me to take a turn over there if our cable here will indorse it with proper escort to see things going in distribution lines, possibly going into the regions where people are dying. I wrote fore hastily last week on the matter, and also send my communication to Sir Philip Currie through your hands.

Such was the desperation at Mosul to try & save life that three persons, under head of our Prot. preacher of the city, Bey Nagib Mirzorian, drew £100, feeling sure money would be coming in for the refugees, and all to work in somewhat secret ways. Sir Philip Currie kindly telegraphed that he would see to careful arrangement for the distribution, and we trust what he may have done there will take such effect that such efficient, reliable men as our preacher & Johannes Varlaban of Arakelots monastery may distribute somewhat openly, otherwise I shall have to thrust myself in to try & save life.

The preacher writes us that others dare risk doing such work openly, but that he is risking out a little for the cause

of humanity. Since receiving the official letter (telling of 65 deaths as I telegraphed), we have had two or three other letters from the preacher. The last one reported (that) the authorities at the south (whether of Diarbekir or some other local power) had forced the poor creatures back from this region in among their native mountains, leaving them nothing whatever to eat save what greens they could gather. This has been written him by the above Nohannes Vartabed whose monastery is nearer the ill-fated regions. The poor, naked, unhoused, unfed creatures, after having been driven hither & thither, have given up in utter discouragement expecting to die there where so many of their number have in the hell, feeling that the world has no sympathy for them?

I will give here a free translation & abstracts from the official & other letters referred to above.

The official letter was dated May 10th while the others reaching down to June 4th while May 10th date may be old style = 22.

"The pitiful, most painful & heart-rending condition of more than forty villages in Sassoun region is what we come to plead. 795 families, or rather representatives of that many families, are shut in among the mountains, not a few having been forced back from the Diarbekir plain, and left like as many cats to lie or die on what only a desolated region can afford! They have given up to what seems their cruel fate - expecting to die of starvation. Moush city has done what it could by special daily contributions to keep alive what can reach here, but what can be done for those in among the mountains! Death is the only natural thing for them unless help is rendered at once. Hence we come pleading for the sake of

humanity that half be sent at once to save these hundreds that seem so near to another kind of death, and so some of the tears of orphans & childless mothers be wiped away.
But the following list of deaths in a few villages already reported, is absolute doubtless there are many more as we have heard, though not yet officially; will be the most eloquent appeal we can make.
Deaths at Sassoun. Dalvorig & Seligugan villages.

1. Sadoi's son Khachig.
2. Stepho " Serope.
3. Mardyros daughter Zighanum.
4. Hadji Horo's son Daniel
5. Mankik's " Yatar
6. Yamos wife Hungon and son Giron.
7. Sarkis' daughter Yevan.
8. Kivos son Nairabed.
9. Sarkis' " Arshag
10. Avlis daughter Nourik.
11. Kalos son Armenag.
12. Yeghios " Mardyros.
13. Serkis daughter Khachik.
14. Donchis son Harkon.
15. Vergas daughter Khachik.
16. Yengros son Serko
17. Boghos' daughter Marium.
18. Nazos " Aghrout.
19. Mardonchi " Naiganush.

Shennik village
20. Giros son Minkem

Sennnik village
21. Boghos Yeghan & Sosay.
22. Martin Suhag.
23. Carpis Hairabed.
24. Sahas wife, Sahag & Mardik.
25. Narses daughter Anahit.
26. Afris son Baghdatt.
27. Yamos Sayaf, Mohan & Sandar.
28. Yamos daughter Yeghanum Kouchik.

Nitink village
29. Eiragosian Khachig.
30. Hagopian Khonto.
31. Magos son Rehan.
32. Pourios " Mairik.
33. Kalosian Mardo.
34. Khachis wife Mairik.
35. Youmos wife & Sabrek.
36. Aivos " Margez

Sennik village
37. Simonian Atam
38. Stepanian Mariam
39. Kapos wife Rehan
40. Hovsepian Petrik.
41. Petrik's wife
42. Sahbag (?)

This much I have gathered from said letters including the list of names as of interest, perhaps, as sort of voucher. As the incoming post should arrive this evening or in the morning (the 11th) I may have something more to add from fresh letter, ere this leaves.

Not only do refugees from Sassoun regions run upon us here, but many from other provinces, as also desperate cases in this city. The whole vilayet so groans from misrule, poverty & oppression, that little branches of Sassoun are springing out on every hand.

See a family of 18 souls that fled from their oppressors in our Kemonk plain to try their chances at the south not far from Sert. A few months there has enough to reduce their number to 11 souls. Hunger, neglect incident to vagrancy bringing on sickness & death! A few days since two of the men find their way to our door again begging for some pittance, as they tell their sad story how some of the 11 are fallen out by the way sick before getting into town even.

Two men come to us from Mardan region joining the ill-fated one. They solemnly declare how four have died from hunger in their village. Mughnathon. Funds have so plundered & oppressed them that they attempted to flee leaving homes, land or what they had, but the local authorities persecuted them! There is to be much suffering and we fear not a few deaths before the new harvest is in hand.

Later. Post is in. Desperate effort is being made in Pt. to save life, though the Eng. Commissioner will soon leave. The new Consul may be able to help out somewhat, though so far from seeing any objection to my coming over, as hinted above, he thinks it would be well for me to come and advise it. Hence I may set out possibly day after to-morrow for a brief visit for famine relief & to attend to some questions coming to our missionary work proper.

Yours very sincerely.

R. M. Cole

Bitlis, June 10, 1895.

Rec'd 2-15-71
Ans'd 2-15-71

daughter gets rule the knight & leave future her husband effects to be a mis- sionary. Regis with thus Strait hands

No. Court. believe Barton, D. D. you will Dr. Barton, but Bitlis, Jan. N. 6 hours. dear me. Marching with his brother.

Surely P. M. Cole

I spoke in my note accompanying the Station Report last week of death of 65 refugees. You may be interested in a copy of my letter to Mr. Peet treating more on this sad subject. To tell the truth we are much absorbed in such lines, but the preaching is also upon us the Gregorians even seeing ready to take it by force! Miss Mary Ely has passed to us to read yours to her under date of May 14th that arrived this day - pretty good time you see. Letters seem pretty safe now certainly so far as our P.O. here is concerned though a few may have been tampered with over in European Turkey - at the boundary. Certain it is that most important papers dont come missing Herald London Christian, Independent occasionally, &c. Of course it is hard to trace our letters to tell whether any are lost or not though our sons' letters nearly every week come through - only one double letter from Fred in N.Y. being lost. We see by Congl'st letters were on the way calling out Retrenchment, and putting more on the people - the impulse having come from the N.Y. meeting of those 12 Societies; but it did not reach us this Post. Quite likely you felt the impossibility of talking much of such to Bitlis Station these times; it might be like reprimanding one for not knowing how to swim just as he was about sinking

for the last time in a drowning condition! Let our feet touch bottom a little so we can get breath & well see. We were interested in what you say of the four refugees in London, and you will be interested in knowing that one of those men is your old pupil Bu Khachig's bro. now preacher at Shekhaghaub in Boulanouk region. This preacher & Bad Simon were both from Dalvorig, and had relatives massacred there. These items would be of interest to Dr. Strong should he use the sketch of pastor Simon I sent him. Hope he got that & the photo also. As you may have heard through Erzeroum or in other ways (and we sometimes wish we in the regions & kingdom of the Sulton were as well posted as you antipodes) that an Eng. vice-consul, Mr. Hampson, is designated for this vilayet, and I may see him in Moush. He is so anxious for a good reliable dragoman that we send on our approval of our preacher Hagop of M. accepting his urgent invitation to serve him temporarily with the proviso that he not be forced into any Sunday work to militate against his conscience & office when he returns to preaching again, as we trust he may by the coming winter. He is too valuable a man to lose from our work. Our coming Ann. meeting at Erz. July 17th if we have one bids fair to be a small affair. It seems hardly worth while for four of us men to sit down to such a meeting. Other days she can come, while only Young Allen goes from Bow & possibly Andrus from Mardin. W. H. Chambers should hold on at Erz. but if his wife's health will not permit because of high altitude I am asking of Dr. Parmelee & him to see if they cant swap places, when if Dr. Parmelee

Bitlis, June 11, 1895.

396

No. 9.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-18-95
Ans'd

Bitlis, Turkey-in-Asia, June 26/95.

Rev. James Barton, D. D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:- Believe I spoke in my last of plans to go over Moush way again to see what I could do by way of relief for the poor refugees, as some funds had come into our hands for this object.

After priming all I could by means of two interviews with our acting Vali here, the wheels over there so clogged (chiefly through more open opposition of the lieutenant govr. there) that I have come back for another talk with our official here, which I had yesterday. So far as words go he is vergracious, as indeed he always is. It remains to see how this talk will be carried out at M. this time, as that official is not so conciliatory, apparently not having come so much in contact with Europeans.

There are more than a thousand refugees floating about in M. city & the near villages-all of them well-nigh in a starving state, we only giving out enough to keep their souls & bodies together till we may arrange to get up among their native hills where they can gather many greens. Mountaineers as they aere they greatly long for home surroundings, desolate as they are. One remarked that their mountain air & hunger were to be preferred to the fetid air & food-satiety (even if they could have it) of Moush city.

Filthy as the town is naturally, and with all of this rabble drifting about so irregularly by day and night serious sickness is almost sure to enter the problem, as I hinted to the pasha, and hence the more need of collecting the refs among their mountains as soon as may be. I dropped in several times to one large sheltered rendezvous where some three hundred men, women & children are piled in about as thick as house-flies! They are a wonderfully patient people-making few demands, easily satisfied & wonderfully grateful for whatever may be given them. They are ignorant of course, very simple-minded, many of them never having gone beyond their own regions till this late cruel ex-patriation drove forth those who could escape. Some have found their way to our doors here in B. who knew not there was even a Bitlis-supposing the whole world was made up of their particular region & the great city of Moush!-having, perhaps, a faint idea of a distant padishah. But somehow they have learned of the Protes & their Badvellies, so that they would come & beg for at least one look of the wonderful personage-all at once announcing our name as distinctly as you please, seeming ready to almos worship the tracks we left behind. O to give them the true Bread!

375

No. 9.

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd

Bitlis, Turkey-in-Asia, June 20/95.

Rev. James Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:- Believe I spoke in my last of plans to go over Moush way again to see what I could do by way of relief for the poor refugees, as some funds had come into our hands for this object.

After priming all I could by means of two interviews with our acting Vali here, the wheels over there so clogged (chiefly through more open opposition of the lieutenant gov. there) that I have come back for another talk with our official here, which I had yesterday. So far's words go he is very gracious, as indeed he always is. It remains to see how this talk will be carried out at M. this time, as that official is not so conciliatory, apparently not having come so much in contact with Europeans.

There are more than a thousand refugees floating about in M. city & near villages-15 of them well-nigh in a starving state, we only giving out enough to keep their souls & bodies together till we may arrange to get up among their native hills where they can gather many greens. Mountaineers as they are they greatly long for home surroundings, desolate as they are. One remarked that their mountain air & hunger were to be preferred to the fetid air & food-satiety (even if they could have it) of Moush city.

Filthy as the town is naturally, and with all of this rabble drifting about so irregularly by day and night serious sickness is almost sure to enter the problem, as I hinted to the pasha, and hence the more need of collecting the refs among their mountains as soon as may be. I dropped in several times to one large sheltered rendezvous where some three hundred men, women & children are piled in about as thick as house-flies! They are a wonderfully patient people-making few demands, easily satisfied & wonderfully grateful for whatever may be given them. They are ignorant of course, very simple-minded, many of them never having gone beyond their own cantons till this late cruel ex-patriation drove forth those who could escape. Some have found their way to our doors here in B. who knew not there was even a Bitlis-supposing the whole world was made up of their particular region & the great city of Moush!-having, perhaps, a faint idea of a distant paradise. But somehow they have learned of the Protes & their Badvilles, so that they would come & beg for at least one look of the wonderful personages-all at once announcing our name as distinctly as you please, seeming ready to almos worship the tracks we left behind, O to give them the true Bread!

As you will have learned, our Mission meeting to have been held at E. the 17th July has been given up-Van changing her vote to the negative side. Of course it would been much like a farce", as Dr. Raynolds suggests, to three, or at most four of us males (and such a year few females would gone) to sit down to an Anl. meeting, though there are some weighty questions at the front.

Considering the relief work thrown upon us, in addition to other duties, I did n't see how I was to get off to Em. for so long a time as it takes late years to hold a meeting; (albeit "when I was a boy" and under the lead of Hpt. we used to put them through in 3 or 4 days & rush back to our posts. But as it now turns I dont see but I shall have to take enough time off from Moush to escort the Ely sisters beyond that point as far as E., and make rush back to M. again; for these worthy, so faithful workers, are in great need of important dentistry, as also of a change after the great strain of the past year, while we are to bear in mind that the elder has not been outside the Mission limits-working unremittingly for these long 16 years. In view of the above we are asking the Mission & Boston to indorse their going to Europe for the above object, and we must needs help them on as hinted above. Of course they cant wait to hear from you, tho expect the reply of the Stations by telegraph. This may give us a hasty opportunity to look in on E. & confer non-officially with Mr. Chambers as to perplexing matters there, while our ladies can sample Miss Chambers at Treb., who seems a bit peculiar.

I wrote you last week suggesting an exchange between Mr. Chambers & Dr. P., and I am in hopes both parties may consider it, should it seem wise to the Missions & you at Boston, -at least their last letters to me look that way. Mr. C. suggests that naturally he shall prefer to go on to be near his bro. should that door open; but I tell him I doubt if under straits for funds Boston will indorse putting another man into Nicomedia field to leave E. so. I tell Dr. Parmelee this would open the way for them to have their daughter (if she regains health) & future husband for associates, which might not be in Treb. He feels at his age he could not carry the toruing. He also refers to that peculiar Alliance, whose Constitution & methods have been before more than one of our Anl. meetings as you may remember. But I tell him once on the ground, and advocating a change of it, instead of fighting to defend it as Mr. C. has, the Mission would succeed in bringing it into line with others, and he need have no fear on that score. Dr. P. says "Why dont you go b back to E.", to which I say that as things look in our B. field we shall need more workers-not fewer. Pardon the thin paper, as it is the only way I can secure a copy of the print. Perhaps you or Mr. Swett have a better way.

All in usual health. Sincerely R. M. Cole

Rec'd Sept. 18/28

Bitlis, June 26, 1895

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-15-95
Ans'd

No. 11.

Sassoun, July 16th. 1894.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton; -

In my No. 10 I spoke of plans for relief to the poor refugees in this region, and the part that I might take in the work. By this you will see I am already here, notwithstanding the obstacles at first interposed. I am very happy to say that in place of being alone I have such a pleasant & efficient colleague in the work as Dr. Raynolds, whose communication accompanies this & speaks for itself.

We realize we are launching in a very weighty enterprise, and shrink from it so far as our own strength is concerned; but believing this is a true call from Him who must feel more keenly than we can this this terrible wrong to humanity, we enter upon it in His name-hoping for good results.

In coming up here we climb 3500 feet higher than Moush city, and over a very hard road. We drop down upon this beautiful little plain among the Taurus Mts., still being 1000 feet higher than Moush. What desolation we witness on every hand! It is indeed a sad sight to see the poor creatures wandering about among the charred ruins, but still more touching to see how certain of the women, arriving anew on the scene since the ill-fate occasion, crying as if their hearts would break, not only at finding no habitation left them, but at the sad recollections of the past.

We are not a little at our wits ends to know what to take up first-all seeming so important. To begin with we have about us and in near regions some 5,000 that need to be fed, with hardly any 'five loaves or two fishes' to turn to-the whole having to come up over this same high summit

Then here are the newly sown fields of millet to be watered & hay that needs to be gathered, but quite as important, if not most so next to feeding are their plain houses in which to cluster for the winter that will be here among the Mts. only too soon. This last is a staggering undertaking considering all the conditions. Hardly a wall but should be largely rebuilt. Also chief workmen are left right here, while able bodied men for the common work are left only too few and they much engrossed in farming as well as bringing over allowances of wheat or millet for their food. Of course the Committee on part of Govt. moves very slowly, and not trust-worthily in most respects. Since our arrival on the scene they seem provoked to more activity in good works. They actually passed over to the amt. of a gode of millet for a family of 23 souls, have made a trip to a forest as to securing much needed timber, while we hear one of them has gone to M. to see if they, too, cannot do something to secure needed tools-sort of Egyptian offset you see. However we are seeking to keep on good terms with them as the better course. feeling that the weight of a straw even in the right direction, is worth saving. Enough hindrances have already arisen, while others appear on the T. horizon against our independent & general distribution without giving chance for more if we can help it. We are pushing as hard as we can to get matters under way-the doctor, meanwhile being much occupied in care of the

sick brought up from M.& others gathering from the regions.

But why should I give you such a chapter on what might be considered more appropriate for a famine relief report proper. Still some funds ha come from U.S. as well as Eng., so you may like to hear as to our effort Do not think, however, we are lacking in opportunities for some of the b missionary work, notwithstanding we may be considedered as 'serving table Our word is largely law with this simple hearted mountain people. Still get them to work even to rebuild one needs to do much like the genl. who rides up & down the lines seeking to rally the forces to the conflict. is a constant tax on one enthusiasm and patience. Perceiving our influa in this respect the T.Com. suggested our pushing the building in the vi lage where they reside. Thus it is we are trying to work on together. Last Sab. we had our first regular services in the little church just ab our tent, and at one of them it was packed even out into the yard with tensly interested auditors. We took ourselves up into what was the alta the very place in the same ch. where Der Hoh. who was so tortured to deat used to officiated. The man's ch. hat & robe are in our hands at Bitlis. Of course we enjoin upon the people "except the Lord build they labor i vain that would build'. Our grate hope is that aside from buildings for the body a tabernacle for the soul as well may be realized.

This much for my first Sassounian communication made up with such a ble about that you will need to look upon it with charity.

Sincerel yours, R. M. Cole

Sassoun, July 16, '95

Rec'd 8-26
Ans'd

No. 12.

Semmal, Sassoun, July 25/95

P.S. Pardon disparaging remarks as we have differ in copy with the press. J.L.B.

James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Little did you think when sending away yours of the 20th ult. where it would have up. It has found me in the region whose name has sent a sad thrill through hearts the world over. It lies before as I write this in reply sitting by the altar in this desecrated church where its two martyred priests - Der Bedros & Der Hohannes - were performing their last offices for their simple-minded, inoffensive people last year at this time. As the houses are in ruins, & we have nought save a poor tent to accommodate us amid abnormal rains & winds for this time of season, we betake ourselves here for more stability & comfort now & then. Everything about the building destructible or depasable has been put beyond recovery - the porticos in front being burnt, though the church proper is of stone with arched roof so stood the ordeal, tho the fire cracked the carved stone over the door. But squalid as the old structure is in appearance to ordinary mortals these devoted ones come to the door to pay their respects by kissing the stones, as two at least have done before me since I began this page, while another points out to me the crude cross their sainted Der Hohannes carved above the door. I may have occasion to refer more at length to these persons at another time, though for the present this must suffice.

* No. I learn that Der Bedros was priest at Eskigyan.

On Saty. 20th inst. we visited Seligman for a hasty inspection to see what should be done there of the greatest necessity. Of their former 175 houses some 30 places have been hastily rebuilt, though whether they will stand the winter is uncertain. Ruin, ruin marks every nook & corner that way the same as here. One stands amazed at the total lack of ~~of~~ common sense at such wanton destruction of property even in a selfish point of view for a Govt. say that gives unmistakable evidence of being tired of Armenians, and bound to wipe them out to give place to Kurds. If they would cut off this race root and branch, why need they spit out their spite upon every sort of building from the commonest sheep fold up to the house or mill though hidden away up some gorge - reaching them out as with a candle, filling in hay or such inflamables as hardly leaves a charred brand behind; so every thing by way of timber must be provided at immense expense & delay in time. Just as though these structures would ever been of some value to the Kurds the Govt. seems bound shall possess the land; for they are, or are, much better than the wild race our have for homes. "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad" seems applicable in the conduct of the Turks of late anyway, and they seem in process of killing the hen that lays the golden egg; for have not the Armenians done most of the hard labor as serfs, paid most of the taxes, and yet in the centers been the enterprising merchants and tradesmen. The Kurds are indolent in those lines but wide awake for robbery.

I might have added

I might have added in speaking above of our going on to Gelinzan above that we rose up 1200 feet & ~~chopped~~ down into the deep gorge 500 lower still where V. is situated where we spent some three hours, observed the ruins, and stood over ~~to~~ of the death pits where human bones, and old rags of clothing were scattered on the face of the ground. On our return we took another road leading us over fierce battle ground where x^tians stood out bravely against their old enemies the Kurds dealing them staggering blows rather than submit to defilement & torturing death. Heroic deeds were related to us by ladies having had in the engagement that of one Hafseh, a mother, who harangues on her own sons to sacrifice themselves for the cause herself doing all she can till she is wounded badly, and later on is killed outright at the hands of his majesty's soldiers!

But I must take no more time to write, though pages could be filled on interesting matters connected with our specific work here and the region, hindrances met with on head of Govt. &c. But I will close with something of regret that we are to part company with you for a time, even for sake of Japan, but count it what is to be our loss will be to the gain of the cause there.

We, too, feel great pain at the state of things in Erz, but trusting that Mr. Chambers is to hold on, and having no little doubt as to the fitness of Miss C. for the work any way from the fickle course she has taken in the past, and the impression her letting go, we may hope that matters will be properly adjusted in some natural course.

Yours very sincerely. R. M. Cole.

P. S. What we write here must be made up amid many interruptions and piece-meal, but such as it is we give. Since penning the previous page we have another development in our deal with the "unspeakable". We were enjoying the news just reaching our camp that the Mousli prisoners were let go free, while some sent in exile to Aska are also reported on their way back home after an absence of some five years, when lo and behold our chief guard (really spy on part of Govt. to report all our doing in a wrong light of course) came to announce to us another turn in the various hindrances they have so studiously put in the way of the progress of our work hitherto. He says orders are that we are to confer with none of the people, or assign any help to them without the presence of one of the Turkish Relief Commission - it practically having to go on at their hands, so anxious is the Imperial to gain all the eclat of foreign money, apparently. Our reply was that our door was open to receive any that came to us to speak of their distress to relieve which was our business and that our lips were not to be sealed - nor were we under siege. But in view of this new turn still another letter and messenger must go down to the new Eng. vice-consul, Mr. Hampson, whom I met the other day & liked him much. Thus it is the Ts. and their Com.n 15 minutes away is the personage in the manger. For these well nigh three mos. not a stone have they turned towards one building, but now we are on the ground great things are talked. Sincerely yr R.M. Cole.

Sarzan
July 25/95.

Semal, Sassoun, Oct. 23/98

Dear Dr. Smith,

Only time to send on a word reporting our selves as well, but overrun with work for humanity here. Am hoping to get time to write a letter but thought would just in a line to day with this to Mr. Richardson who has aspirations for ammunition to make up speeches of for Sassoun Cause. You are at liberty to read and forward, whither he may be. There are many things of interest if I had time for a letter. For instance in the olden time as Dr. Nandin & older inhabitants well remember the Patriarch Matteos as the bitter persecutor, but the present one of the same name name is on my list of correspondents in connection with this Relief work, which the chief prelate of this all M. is like a bro. in familiarity. But more of these things as soon as I can get off a letter,

Very cordially Your Friend

R. M. Cole.

Semal, Oct. 23, 1895.

Rec'd Nov. 19.

Realizing how far at the Rooms for information respecting the safety of missionaries when Boxer massacre is read about in the papers of N.S. as likely to have been before this I hasten to give the benefit of the very brief note Mrs. C. started out with no thought it would reach me, while her long letter of particulars was destroyed.

"We are still prisoners. Mr. Knapp wrote the Yamen desiring protection; though he promised if he would send quietly at home, he would see that he was protected, but to time of this writing nothing apparently done. Last evening came to us the sounds of an adjacent province here to attack our guard. Thank Heaven they have not come yet, though we made the best preparation for defence we could. Help must come or I dare not predict the result."

Their servants lives were in jeopardy so they could not venture into the street. Mr. Knapp tried to telegraph me that they were in great peril but this & most other tels. were rejected, while letters - outgoing & incoming - were suppressed - they getting almost nothing for a post. So discouraged was Mrs. C. she wrote "I am writing to no home friends this week", though she did (thank God for that!) venture said note of two short small pages.

Being at Mough on arrival of note I at once read the note to the consul & he made up one of the strongest telegrams in cypher to his Embassy, that of course went to Paris &c.

friends as well. Since then a note is said to have come to some one in Monroe by traveler from Bittis, sta
no further catastrophy has taken place in B. and we a
coming to feel it must be so or we should have hea
It remains to see if any letter can reach me by Fe
to arrive day after to-morrow.

Mrs. Cole says "We come around the table but no
to eat, save the two small daughters" - the eldest Nel
of 1½ years and taller than her mamma's seeming to fee
enter into the anxiety from the situation. Mrs. C. continu
"This nervous strain on us all is heavy. God only kn
the history of these days & never-ending nights. May
we meet that we meet again". So I am with you alw
is a great comfort to me."

The above will give you all we have at hand
will be more than you will have elsewhere most likely
Mr. Chambers of Em writing just of the massacre of 60-100
days to me he telegraphed Bittis twice but gets no repli
Seven days ago I sent Mr. Knapp tel. paying for reply to see
promptness but get no answer.

We here are in a region whose only practical gov-ch
is ourselves and our 4648 people are loyal subjects
No Kaffirs venture very near us thus far tho some mo
threats on distant villages, demand their old tribute, &c.
Of course we live largely from day to day. Our times
are in His hands who should soon say "Thus far & no farther"
to this reign of terror. Pray for xns of the land. Sincerely

R. M. Cole

Mosul City

Dr. Smith

It would be unjust to you and all friends if we dont at least make frequent attempts to get information to you at the Rooms who must be run upon for news from Bitlis month. Our latest from Mrs. Cole & Mr. Knapp, dated 9th inst. shows very little improvement in the situation. They were all collected in Mrs. Knapp's house & practically under siege – not daring to go outside the door. Mrs. C. with our three young daughters held on in our house (the corner of whose premises is only separated by a narrow lane) for 22 hours that covered the terrible massacre. Then Mr. K. came upon the roof near to ask after their welfare, when at once servants of two govt. officials were drawn Riflys upon him, and only that he was high up and they on the ground, thus giving him the chance to drop upon his hands & knees as as to hasten below, there was every reason to suppose that his life would gone and two ladies and children been left alone. A trying feature of this case is that one of parties is the acting vali's right hand man, as it were, being high official of the police & chief guard of the vali himself. This same official is threatening my house servants lives

because he, at my direction of course, had something to do in getting a poor Sassounts'i mans mule freed that was carried off in the plunder of last year.

The other party is the son of the late Hadji Bey that used to affect such friendship to Mr. Knapp's father while the son has made such pretense even to the present Mr. K. He lives just through the wall, in some block from us, and Mrs. K. had till this such open enmity, thought in case of desperation of running up a ladder with our daughters, passing upon their roof to go down into their house in hopes he might protect them.

But woe to the person or peoples that puts confidence in the T. these past 15 mos. at least. Their policy is very clearly to so dispose of the question of the Armenians all in any way connected with them so that echo shall answer. Where are they?

Mrs. K. and our daughters hastily caught up a few needful things for immediate use, and with the guard of sch. boys & servants filed through the lane to Mrs. K's where, as I have before said, they are all keeping watch together, Mr. K. never & others seldom undressing to lie down for a night's sleep. Mr. K. taking his turn with the guard in patroling the premises.

They have tried to get letters and telegrams outside, but with poor success. Of course Mrs. Koh

keeps trying and succeeds some of the time in getting notes and occasionally full letters through to me here but sometimes by such "underground" methods as better not be explained here.

The Eng. vice-consul, Mr Hampson here, has acted beyond all praise in his efforts for our interests doing everything in his power, sending long telegrams and some of our personal letters even at his own expense and putting our letters under his consular seal. Our B. friends don't think it safe for me to attempt to enter that city yet, and they plead that he come on with the escort to free them, as Mr R. puts it "from Lucknow". But he fears to leave here lest the some terrible work take place here, though is waiting anxiously, like ourselves, to see if the Post now due from Delhi will bring any better news. But I must hasten this off. Since the Post makes little delay here, and this must be given over before that arrives.

But I must not fail to say that I am somewhat better of the cold & poor turn I had in Sassoun, this I think I reported in my last note. We came to town a week ago to-day. Dr. R. felt for my health sake if for no other, we should come while the new lieutenant Govr (Muttesarif) showed he was stirring up fa-

natics

Moorhead City, Nov. 14, 1870
Recd Dec. 7

that we might be getting up a rebellion there, he having our caravans put to much trouble from organizing. Dr. R. soon began to fever and is on a sort of remittent, or malarial fever and pretty sick. It lays thing in the case is that he feels he can't get well in this marsh air that is always bad for him. Only the other day he said he should die if he didn't get out of here. He found and ox cart and he was hopeful he could leave to-day to go by cart to Gadsden Bitts's sea-port, thence to ride a horse home without entering B. tho is not yet safe. But his tongue is loose this morning, and to my mind it will not be safe for him to journey for the next 15 days lest a relapse might carry him off. So much reduced is he in strength. Fortunately a good servant (Ivy) has served Dr. somewhat so to, but consults mine, came on with furniture for my Hampton and takes upon him to nurse Dr. R. who thinks the man a God send, tho I, who am terribly harassed still with cough & poor appetite, am relieved. I have been and am still almost distracted at the state my family are in, and have wanted to fly on to them as fast as Post horses could take me, but I must await there indorsement who made the 9th "must not come if consul is not with the escort". Our dear Don Cy the boy, has been telegraphy to learn of our safety.

Moush city, Nov. 21st. 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Smith:- Though I can give but brief notes under the circumstances, and some of those dashed off in the very greatest haste, yet I trust that 'charity which is kind', will take into account all the harrassing conditions, and find some consolation in information thus brougt to light from these distant, so exposed out-posts amid the Mts.

I am of the impression I spoke of my colleague, Dr. Raynolds' serious illness in my note to you of last week. For nearly two weeks now I have stood over the sick man with no little anxiety. Two days ago I feared somewhat lest he might not pull through this hard run of malarial fever; but it has turned now, the crisis is over, and I have hope he may be able to reach his home once more, tho he is much prostrated & time is needed to get strength. It is indeed a dark Providence that calls upon us to wait upon this sickness under such circumstances as these. Winter is upon us, and the doctor has quite a journey before him if he gets home, while we at Bitlis ought to make quick work of it if we get our families out of that gorge before the snows block the roads altogether. Still by no means would we complain, believing there is some good purpose in this also. God knows & does well. You will have heard of the terrible affair at B. & can fancy the agony I have been in for my family there & the rest of that circle. Trough favor of the Eng. official here I have been able to work up matters for their safety as could n't been done at B. whence it is impossible for them to get out telegrams & letters to the outside world as they desire. Yesterday I had two tels. from Mr. Knapp, one was 3 days & the other two days old (a footman can come from there in a day!) saying they were well & awaiting our arrival (as looking to moving out of B. I suppose) that they had n't received my registered letter, tho did the one by same Post, going without registration; that snow had come, etc. That they are safe & well is a great cause of thanksgiving, and should we be able to be with them a week from to-day (Thursday) we shall note the fact long before good old "Thanksgiving" will have reached your part of the world.—You may hear that we here had our turn at a riot last Friday, causing 7 deaths up to the present, while others of the 40-50 wounded will doubtless die, Govt. did very well in suppressing it here. No plundering was allowed. That in B. evidently indorsed the procedure, & more than 500 gone there (of whom 9 Prots, one our high sch. teacher, a grad. of Euprates col.) Ts are very bitter on every hand. Believe none of the reports that poor down-trodden Xns. of these regions make attacks. T. sources are the authority for all such, when truth comes to the light you will know better. Prudence & lack of time forbid my writing over plainly & fully at present. You will understand & read the unwritten as well. Heaven pity the land!

The less imposing my letter the safer may be passage. Some 15 villages in the B. Kaza (province) have undergone much of what the ill fated Agra experienced last year. A large village 2 hours south of B. having 4 houses has, I hear, been burned, some 30 male men killed, some raped, 15 girls & brides carried off captives by the wilds. The friends our preacher & family of the place made their escape & are now in our house at B. I might go on but the heart is sick. Some of the oxen, wheat & goods bought with Eng. money, but worse than the sad people has been carried off by the wilds. Heaven Have mercy! Yours &c R. M.

P.S. Hope to get off with Dr. R. for B. stage of his journey next week. If there is prospect of being struck in Van (because of snows) I may bring my family over here, as I need to be there not only for relief work, but to cheer our Prof. of the field who will be so dishearted if we all leave the field. You concerning have free render it safer.

R. M. C.

Rec'd Dec. 23.

Dear Sir, I am very sorry to be obliged to think of troubling you with a letter.

The enclosed is first draft of what I hastily wrote to Capt. Hornby, correspondent of London "Times" at time of Colfax war, and under Gladstone was member of Parliament, I believe. He has come to Constantinople & I suppose what can be done for the Armenians: but whether that implies that he comes officially I know not. The least I could do was to give information from my standpoint - cautioning him not to compromise me. I was going to send it to our Consul Frederick W. Cole, A. B., 20 East 10th St. (Dr. Cutler's School for Boys) New-York City. I thought it might ~~help~~ have thought fur hands in case Gen should care to have it. If your good-eyed clerks glance it enough to get a clew of what has been going on, Mr. Barton has desirous of such information as often it seems to happen, beginning with the Boston Journal near, in order not to compromise us. As Xns can get so little information outside, what appears in Eng. papers is so largely from Turk sources, as how Xns could attach credit to them, they are exasperating indeed.

Rev. R. M. Cole

Moush Nov. 25, 1895.

Rec'd Dec. 30.

[illegible] recently reports [illegible]
speaking of Dr. Raynolds' illness, he
says: "He is so far over the crisis of his
over he thinks he will start to move
in a moffah, or on ox cart, though
much fear it is too soon for him. Only
embarrassment of circumstances, his
sick colleague, &c. to make out of
work up to date, I might have given
you a clean copy of the communica-
but as I am sending it to our [illegible]
in any case I let it pass through yo
hand to glance through or not as you
may decide, for I trust you will d
charitably, considering the circumstan
in which I am. All seems quiet & mu
ably safe here & in Sassoun whither
soldiers have been sent to keep back
despoiling Kurds. I am thinking strongly
bringing my family here a few mos. for
change, as I need to be here for the work,
near to a consul, & with Mr. having had
turn at a riot successfully put down
local Gov't. the only one we have. Here I am in
communication by post & telegraph through
of the Eng. consul with the outside world.
Seems tolerably safe now though entirely a
from the desolation brought on the 25th ult.
deaths in Mr. from the riot thus far white
& the 40-50 wounded may die. It was

Bitlis, Dec. 4, 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Yours of the 26th Oct. only reached us by this last Post, and brought to us both joy & sadness,- joy that you were so much improved in health, but sadness that in a way we are called to part company, for certainly our association these last years has been very pleasant. And yet the reason you give for the new arrangement disarms argument, since we know you must have been overworked; but when you introduce us to such a successor as our own beloved missionary brother Barton we should not complain. In any case we fare better than we deserve.

In our acquiescence in this new arrangement we take comfort in the thought that you are thus to be relieved of some of your burdens, while at the same time you assure us your continued interest & prayers for our arduous labors; this much if not more we reciprocate on our part with earnest fraternal love, believing we shall often meet in mutual pleading at the Throne of Grace. Never have we at B. needed the prayers of all our home friends as now - need them as you can hardly conjecture. Ours & the dear Nestor's surroundings are not unlike the old reputed trip be-

tween Scylla & Charybdis, with the fogs hanging about. Much in the epistolary category "goes to the mail" and what carries must needs be read inter-lineam. You will understand me. God is our ~~[illegible]~~ Is. 41:10-13. Am. 5:13. Hab. 1:15-6. If fog-horn (rumor) to be trusted Is. 22:19. & so far removed with uncertain epistolary, Is. 18:2. a word to the wise is sufficient. Heaven look down upon you & us all! The scourge is now pretty well scattered through our field - one of our city wards being under guarantine from the disease, as thought - though is a distant ward. There are few deaths from it in M. city of late, though is scattered among the villages, and the 10 days guarantine en route has hindered our trip to M. though once I was just starting out for all that, but other hindrance then came in, and here I am writing you, but naturally - under the present circumstances - so mystically that you may feel apprehension. If no hindrances arise some of our Sch^s outside are particularly hopeful. Our circle about as usual though Mr. K. sen. fails. "Our eyes are unto the hills from whence cometh" —. Your closing quotation is opportune for us at this time. We are not going to say good bye, but think of you as much with us in sympathy, though we are not to expect the usual epistles, nor trouble you with our oft times too hasty written communications. We all join in deepest interest & affectionate remembrance. The Lord watch between us. Till we meet again.

Yours ever R. M. C.

Recd Jan. 9

R. No. 80. L. B. 13-96

Dear Office from us all! I am still there upto the Sassoun road, and need to come over this winter. Poor Mr. E. P. K. is laid up with a bad foot, and to send outside the door as the nearest minister. Dr. Barton

Though I have written several hasty notes to Dr. Smith from Sassoun & Moush I will address this to you remembering that you expected to be back before this will be likely to reach America. God grant that your mission may have been a successful one in the work in ambitious Japan!

On the 7th ult. we moved down from Sassoun having to wallow somewhat in the snows over the mts before Moush. Soon after reaching M. Dr. R. was taken down with a serious run of malarial fever. Of course it was a heavy tax on me, though fortunately a very helpful servant that the doctor has used to, arrived ere many days in other work, and far took care of him I was much relieved.

On the 26th he had so far improved that I took him in moffah to within five hours over which distance he brought him on handsled (there being plenty of snow in this part) to this city. After delay here of five days he ventured to start on in van on his own horse with a guard of five zabtiehs & the above servant, and we trust is at home now.

As to the situation here, prospective and retrospective there is much one is prompted to say, but our friends have shut themselves out Postals largely since Oct. 25th.

Dear a Melbourne, Dear to you! Our office from us all!

Continued.

Chicago Ill. Nov. 1896.

Dear Bro. Smith: As one of the "Chicago boys" I feel in usual hearty

and one does not need to be here long to see that it is not Moush from which point correspondence, &c. has quite a different affair on many accts. The Consul there is exceedingly kind & helpful in all American interests, taking upon his (Govt.) tel.m acct. pounds on pounds. Of course such a course does not bring much honor to our so-called first class U. S. Power; but as long as our foreign diplomacy is such and such an official at the Porte what is to be expected. He persisted in believing there was no danger for B. for all we knew, as I was informed on the best authority, but now when it is too late what would he say! "There are none so blind", &c.

I came on in hopes of taking my family back with me to pass the winter there together, if I did not need to take them beyond when if did it is on Post route, safest of any. The Ks. were planning to get out as their letters showed, but now as the winter is upon us, and a guard of 16 soldiers on our premises they think of holding on till Spring, and doubt with us to separate from them. My family much needs a change, especially our three daughters under 13 years of age, who suffered so from fear that ill fated Friday 25th Oct. They start at almost every sound. Moush is much safer, as we saw in a similar affair ~~that~~ on another dark Friday, 16th Nov., but in which the govt. did all it could to suppress instead of help on terrible deeds as in certain places. Only seven had died up to time we left, and the affair only lasted ½ hour all told.—

I have been somewhat under the weather partly from care & anxiety at Dr's illness, state of our dear ones in B. &c, but am improving, so we might move towards M. if best.

Poitiers. Dec. 11. 95.

Rec'd 2-3-96
Ans'd 4

Dear Mr. Smith and Barton;

I am well aware you should have free access to us as well as we to you, but at these times too much of a good thing may be dangerous. Thus I may be all month without hearing from you.

Matters here are in a very critical state. Yesterday and yesterday week, Nov. 5th & 14th Nov. Counter Guards were posted, hence I have had the liberty to take the liberty of addressing Mr. Lecor.

But the times are so uncertain, I am well aware you should have free communication from the vanguard these times, for who can tell what may not get into the papers to frighten all your dear friends in the occident. We dwell in safety thus far and are in usual health as a circle, though the nervous strain on the friends shut in here, has been very great. I was expecting to transfer my family to Monsh for the winter, feeling since the massacre the change was needed to say nothing of safer surroundings there with a good fort. So far as the head of it showed himself to be in suppressing the late riot there, while there was the assurance of a consul right at hand. But things were in such a state here on our arrival from M. that the Knapp household (and most of all Mrs. Knapp Sen. in such fear of what might befall her son) seconded by Dr. K. on seeing the situation felt they could not consent to our leaving them here alone. They had written as though they should leave here, but in our arrival winter was upon us, and the guard of 16 soldiers seeming to render it safer to stay on than to risk journeying such times, they decided to stay on while we as a family shall be under the necessity of holding on, though I may go to Monsh once or

or twice between this and Easter.

The enclosed copy will show you how we are occupied here, again in work for humanity. Only that accounts rather call for me at Moosh & may be much relieved of that work till we may know to whom the cattle, sheep, &c. we might purchase for the Sassoun people, are to pass – the only concern now being to look after their feeding, which we had well in hand before leaving it.

Our hearts are torn asunder by the desolation of humanity about us, which the feeling in town is that there is little safety, none knowing what a day may bring forth. In my various calls on the Pashas he gives every assurance, and so he did, I am told, to x^ns the day before that ill-fated Friday – the L's so-called sacred day! I go and come much as usual, though with a guard on going to the Pasha's or into market to the P.C.

My associate is, however, housebound since that day, his advisers not considering it safe for him to step outside. We have begun our Sab. services, having a fair audience last Sunday, and have set our Sch.s running in this our yards where are both of the high schools & one primary. Word much I might tell you of how we miss the worthy young man, graduate of Aph. College, who was at the head of it, but now with his eight companions, one his uncle, fills one long martyr's grave in this same yard!

⊗ There are more than 15000 in these regions who slightly of everything nearly down to cold rags on their backs, though some 2000 of them are in this City – hungry

We must not fail to send frequent lines if you will put up with haste and poor writing & position and chirography now and then. We know full well how many thoughts of friends turn this way and how many questions as to the dear work and workers must come in on you. Many thanks, Dr. S., for your kind, sympathetic letter of 30th nov. that I may have before acknowledged. We have warm greetings for you, Dr. B., if we shall find you back from distant Japan. We are still alive and well though some of the circle suffered not a little from the terrible strain incident to the events of Oct. 25th and thereto following. Mrs. Knapp Sen. especially has felt so very much opposed to my taking my family on to Monsh that we have rather given up and try to make our plans conform to theirs. When Dr. R. and I arrived here we supposed the K. household would soon be off for Peau, but owing to danger for Mr. K. especially should he venture outside the door, where he has not been since the riot, and fatuness of the season they elected to stay on, being supported by Dr. R. in the idea that we should all hold on

P.S. We latest things for American mission news with us is the fact that the Lowe telegraph line has been opened as far as Peking. We have telegrams from Peau every week. The Sunday following the 29th ult. was on Sunday, Nov. 30th. Dr. Kerr is abroad! Respectfully yours, A. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-25-96
Ans'd 2-3

together, and Dr. R. has been to the trouble & expense of repeating the same by wire since arriving in Van. But by this last post comes a letter from him to the Knapp household suggesting that his wife and the Allnutt girls probably leave for Persia soon from danger of situation there, and he rather advises them to come on to join them. Mr. K. has telegraphed back that he should like to know his sister (now there) go on with them. This does not look much like holding together either here or at Van. But this last looks in the right direction, seems to me. I dont believe in having ladies and children subjected to such trying circumstances. As for myself my only plan has been to stick to the ship and try to ride out the gale by God's grace. But why need my family (including three almost grown up daughters - the elder at least being taller than her mamma) be held here such times. If it were only Mrs. Cole and myself I might not send her away, but with so many females exposed before such a low-lived race who can wonder that it should seem best to get them upon safe territory. If we had gone to Mr. it is safer because of a good Govt. there, and would been well on our safest way to reach Russn. border by nearest way if we had to flee. Thus we live on from day to day. Our daughters especially suffered from nose bleeding

Tabitha's Scars 18.96.

J. L. B.
'd 3-14-96
'd 17

Bitlis, Jan. 22nd 1896.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Considering the times under which we live it seems but appropriate that some of us should make the attempt to reach you in some form of communication once a week, though whether they may reach you in considerable number is another thing. An attempt has been made to arrest our servants and especially Mr. Knapps, whereupon we telegraphed our Legation and Mr. Peet twice (the first time more than two weeks ago) but no reply has come, leading us to fear they never were delivered at C., probably not having been sent from this office. And yet about the time of the first one I sent one to the Eng. ambassador, Sir Philip Currie, as to relief work which brought a prompt and efficient reply. So far as our Legation is concerned, we have learned to expect little recognition in such lines, though we admit that he seems to have bestirred himself more of late. Like others of the fraternity we have of this station said considerable about the apathy of this official and America's foreign diplomacy, and in the end concluded so much talk might as well take the form of action; so a resolution was drown up on the

subject, which may have reached your desk. For all his subjects in general throughout the land had been very outspoken on the matter, some of them in public print; it ended with talk - so typical of the land out here. Some using as their apology that "When crossing a stream it was no time to swap horses." As they like. "Appears like this Turkey is a long time crossing the stream!" Still our Gov.t foreign policy seems "milk and water", else why should it we been spared the disgrace of the futile attempt to have Consuls at Erzrum & Harpoot?

By the way, I wonder if a vote authorizing my family's coming on to America has yet reached your desk. I have forgotten to ask the Stated Clerk, but judge the mixtures may have interfered with its transit, though Dr. Barnum wrote me they at Hpt had signed it. It was set going from B. long before the riot here. My own judgment was rather in favor of their going in the early autumn partly from need of our eldest daughter (now entered on her 14th year and taller than her mamma) being in the schools, and partly from my apprehension of what might be in store for the land from all the threats abroad. As I have before written I had in mind to take them on with me to Moush for a change, but that has been headed off by the strong feeling of the Knapp household that I should not be away from them - they feeling

there was so much danger for him, and from the lateness of the season, they had better remain shut within their walls at home for the winter. Young man as he is, and possibly not having always been discreet the feeling against him especially is so great that the safety of the whole concern, I fear, is less for his presence here, but just how to get him out with safety may be a problem. Of course anti-foreign feelings runs high for us all, but doubly so, it is felt, for him. Much as I want him to be my associate in the future if I stay here, and like him as a man, yet he will have to leave, unless a very great change takes place. He may have written you about sending away his family with mine in the early spring, as he spoke to me about it rather recently. His aged mother, especially, has suffered much from this strain. His thought seems to be that he would be safer to hold on within his doors than to venture out for I know not how long. Certain it is I should hardly dare risk my family in his charge to go to the coast, and fear we may need to resort to disguise for him in any case unless very great change comes about. However it is not easy for me to plan in a way to please them, and I only hope they may be led aright; meanwhile, out of regard to the aged mother especially we

seem compelled to make our plans conform to theirs. My thought is to stick to the ship, after seeing the ladies and children to the coast possibly in the early spring. I hope you may be able to let me know by return how such a movement on the part of our families would be regarded. Pleasant as it would be if Mr. K. and I could hold on here together after I might return from taking them outside, yet I am fearful his presence may be such an irritating element as to render it all the more dangerous for all concerned.

But it is hardly suitable for me to write more on this subject, though were we together talk might be freer. I trust you will give me an early reply on the question. For some two years we have been cogitating on having our daughters in American schools—we not having such chances as Aph, Marsovan, &c. for them to be benefited in the girls boarding sch^l as there is no Eng. and they would be shut up to study in the native language. As I write it is affirmed in market & tel. has come saying there has been a terrible affair in Van calling out Carmon even. Certain it is there is considerable stir among the Ts. and no little fear falls on x^ns again. Our families, and especially my daughters suffered much under the late riot, so that even now they start in fear at the least extra noise or motion. All in usual health.

Cordially Yours, R. M. Cole

Oxford, Jan. 22, '96

Rec'd 7-6-76
Ans'd 7

Glad you forwarded Mr. C's letter to hold on not to be obliged to give an answer. Mr. Barton's health not well. Dr. Shattuck and Dr. D. D. Barton; leave Barton 5 or 6 weeks. But unless to your advantage I would not go to Washington. Yours of Aug. 22d from Boston, and Sept. 14th written on S.S. Coptic 2 days off Cal. both put in an appearance this last Post! The latter was mailed at Honolulu and seems to have been put well to soak somewhere - both having lain for weeks in our so irregular P.O. as would seem, and were all open. Two clippings from papers to which you refer were projecting from the end of the envelope! Thanks for all the sympathy & interest you dear friends have in us and this work so mutilated these times. There is so much we might say if time & prudence dictated such, but to-day, especially, I can say very little, as Post is leaving to-day instead of to-morrow as usual, so we are short of time. Moreover the crowds are at our door, as this is our day in the extension relief that as upon us here too.

But without treating of such matters I must dwell on matters respecting our station circle. As I wrote you or Dr. Smith possibly both, expressing fear that Mr. Knapp should be out of this place because of Turkish animosity, there is no longer doubt on that score. To end all the

numerous threats, the Court sent a warrant for him to appear before court last Saty as a disturber of the peace. The Govt claims to have an order from Consul to take him by force even to smashing in his door! After considerable telegraphing minister Terrell this official replies that he can only be tried by a U.S. consul and for him to come out to C. with his family. My judgment has been that the families and probably he had better leave the place, but Dr. R's attitude on the question when he was here en route from Sos-soun to Van did not help on the matter at all. Now that this complication takes place how much they wish they were out of it - having left before, as Mrs. Knapp Son, expressed it two days ago. Mr. Hallward, late Eng. consul at Van, now going to Diarbekir, and having left us to-day after three days pleasant encouraging visit, feels that it was a great mistake they did not go on to Van with Dr. R. However that is past. The plan now is for all of the circle, some myself, to try to accompany Mr. Knapp on to C. if he is not forced to go too soon, while I stay on to try to hold the fort. - They coming on to your western world. Mr. Chambers starts up again determined to leave Erzrum and some have suggested Mr. R's taking this post. Seems to me that would be the best could be done at present if he would be persuaded. It hardly seems

Letter Feb. 11, 96.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-6-96
Ans'd 7

Bitlis, Feb. 25th 1896.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

It is now nearing two weeks since we have any letters from the outside world, and so far as we know there is no news that it has yet left Moush. Though we have nothing from your far off world, newspapers even being under the ban, yet it is hardly right for us to leave you and the many friends that side of the waters in doubt as to our safety; so I inflict on you another of my hasty epistles, since there is no evidence that others of the circle are writing. On turning to my copying book to note date of my last to you I see that it was the 22d ult. since which time I have turned of 20 large pages of official reports to Mr Whittall, Chairman of Consl Comee of Relief, and Sir Philip Currie, H. B. M. Ambassador to the Porte, on the same work, and one letter to Judge Terrell on the situation with us as Americans.

I dont see that in mine to you I spoke of the warrant served on Mr. Knapp, and I think it took place after the letter was sent.

I think I will assume that either some of that household have spoken of it in writing, or you will have heard of it from Consul; so will only refer to it in brief.

The Govt here began by issuing warrants on our accounts, which are still so far in force as to necessitate their keeping within our own yards. Of course calumny respecting us all as foreigners is in the modern air from which the Govt has made every effort to establish a case. They so far persuaded the Consul Govt (as did Nero Bahsin respecting what a terrible rebellion in Sassoun required in '94) that an order seemed to have come up to seize my associate and take him by force before their local court on the score, as the Pasha hinted to me in a call, that the law was "if the place was more than 9 hours distant from a consul the local authorities had the right to execute orders on American subjects."

Fortunately during these trying days the late Van consul en route to his new charge at Diarbekir happened to be here and was good adviser in the case. Mr. K. was indorsed by him in making his written protest, and demanding

that the case go to Tousih; at the same time various telegrams were sent to our Legation with the result that he is to go on to Tousih, as per Minister Terrell's telegram. We do not yet know whether such a trifling business will require haste or not; but if he is at liberty to go out late enough so the families can accompany him they will all go on possibly via Tiflis (Russia) and Tiflis so as to get an earlier start than they could make via Erzroum.

Thus it is I am to be left sort of "monarch of all I survey", and shall do the best I can to hold things together; while the remainder of my family will, I trust, report to you in that land in person in the course of a few months.

We are all in usual health. Miss Grace Knapp being in Van, as you must already know. It seems for all Dr. R. when here cast such an influence, as to deter the Knapp household from moving out comfortably then before winter has upon us, so we folks might been free to lay our plans (probably moving to Mousch for the winter) the friends at Van have scattered sending their families on to Persia as matter of safety.

Later. I see I overlooked a brief letter that I sent you via Mr. Swett under date of 11th inst. in which I referred to certain things repeated in this; so that I am half a mind to cast this aside as worthless. Still as it will let you know as to our health & safety as a circle at this date, and as I have no time to rewrite I send it on as it is closing with a few words as to our relief here.

There is much suffering in all the regions about as well as in this city, some having died from hunger and exposure in the Provinces while others have been killed if they did not surrender their faith. One of our people member of Church at Aghcagh as also his wife, but who returned a few years since to land he had at the south three days distant, has been killed we hear, and his family (wife & 5 children) left in hands of the moslems!

Poor list (spinners & weavers) 500 houses
" spinners alone about 800 persons
weavers " 76 "
Webs of cloth woven this week 91
Shirt patterns supplied 108
8 pairs drawers, 20 pair socks 28 (wheat
Given out as price of labor 950 goods
" " charity, most to refugees, 350 ps (wheat
" " " " 150 goods

This is part of report sent to Sir Philip Currie this week

Letter. Feb. 25, 96

As report for the week, £300 has been sent on from Eng. funds which is nearly all expended & we are in need of funds - Hastily &c

R. M. C -

Rec'd 4-18-96
Ans'd 13

D. S. Probably you know they have become a young association is what it claims to be. It promises to be a great help to us in our missionary work in this country. Yours sincerely, W. W. Barton;

Thanks for such good words. I am sorry I have not time to give us the 13th Jan. date, only two weeks after your arrival home from Japan. Almost every week letters such as they are have gone on from my pen, which I hope may have reached your desk, and will have given you a glimpse of the status quo with us all.

We still dwell in safety & our eyes are unto the hills, &c. As to the heroism of the fraternity you refer to, and how it commends the missionary work to many who heretofore have regarded it lightly, it sounds much like sentiments expressed in a letter at hand by our very last post as has yours from an occasional correspondent of mine who is a prominent official on one of the large railways in New England. Says this worldling not over appreciative of the church or of practical religion "Such unselfish devotion and heroism on the part of yourselves and associates in holding on to the boat of duty, has won the admiration of all your friends and the civilized world; and such conduct not only has a salutary influence on society in this land, but

in that you inhabit as well," &c. This subject, by the way, reminds me how on our return to the country late in '76 we met our U. S. minister at C. of that time - a Mr. Maynard I think it was. The war cloud about Erzroum was so dark that good Dr. Wood and others at the Capital thought perhaps we had better stop there instead of going on to Erz. I went to see what our civil chieftain would say on the subject - "Well, we can't say just what may take place up at Erzm, though as you missionaries are supposed to take your lives in your hands in these missions you might go on there; but to tell the truth I think there is not much of the martyr spirit left in the church"! We did go on to Erzm and faced into all the experiences there. The Eng. Consul was recalled but still we held on during which trying times I had some pleasant correspondence with Mr. Maynard, and when the storm-clouds had drown back from us he wrote a letter embodying just such sentiments as the above looking to the "valiant conduct of his fellow countrymen" in Erz.

But naturally we look at the matter much as a parent would as he thinks of leaving his children. Can we leave those we have in a sense begotten in the Lord? If indirectly the ch. and world are benefited by such examples all the better for them.

I note what you say about frequent if they be short communications, and so far as I am concerned will try to comply with your request.

We get very little news from the outside world. almost no newspapers getting through the lines, while often we have doubts as to letters as well. Our last one from Eu was 23 days in reaching us while mine from Mouth Consul was 13 days! Mr. Chambers' brings us the sad information that though standing at their posts as some of our helpers are as well as missionaries now the Estimates are halved and thus sent out to us! So disheartened are some of our preachers, that have like ourselves fallen under the ban of Ts. for serving humanity in Sassown, that you may hear from them by this very post. If it comes in their native language and it troubles you to read Bro. Brown near at hand will help you out. On score of prudence signatures may be lacking, but you will think of them as some of your old pupils, and give them and the subject as favorable a consideration as possible. Dark is the outlook.

At the risk of filling the remainder of this sheet I want to speak of a few financial matters. First of all we beg if you can allow much more

than half, you will permit us to use whatever may be saved from one dept in another that lacks; as, for instance, these times something might be saved from touring, while we have not been able this winter to have only a few village schools; so such moneys might be applied on regular preachers to keep them on for 12 mos. instead of six, as if we can have no assistants and they are to be left on alone why not they design as well.

Then again, we have in hand on grants in aid an appropriation that was to go for a Bey's property here in B. that all missionaries have felt was most important. As you or Dr. Smith may recall additional room from a garden adjacent to our Mosque so-called chapel. We attempted to build in these two small rooms to be connected with those already in hand so the school could be better accommodated which the missionary also have room to himself to dwell during his yearly so-journ there. The work was stopped by Govt. but now the consul is there and with a little mutserrif we hope to succeed in completing it this spring and shutting in the piece of garden. This would be called for to conserve the purchase of property made even if the whole were to be sold; but 50-75 pounds will be needed and we beg that the Comee allow us to transfer money from the above Grants in aid for the object. All safe well. Yours truly &c

R. M. Cole

Bitlis, March 3, 1876.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5 8 96
Ans'd 7

Bitlis, March 17, 1896

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Mr. Knapp had in mind to write you last fast, as he told me, so I did not send on anything. But as it turned he did not send you a letter, and from the doubt he expressed as to being able to "get round to it this time", I will hasten off a line to report our safety & health at least, putting in with it a copy of my last weeks Report of our relief work.

All is passing quietly though. Xns have seemed to be in perfect torture over what a few mean Zs., (apparently anxious to torture in words if they cant in deed) have been scattering abroad for threats of what they were surely to do this bairam. This is the 3d or last day of the feast, and everything is as quiet as usual. I made seven calls yesterday on the Pasha and chiefs of departments. They were all cordial and gave me warm assurance that nothing should take place to cause alarm to us, declaring that their orders were to shoot without formal examination any caught in attacks on Christians!

To see me I had Gov.t guard along with me, but really I saw not the least occasion

for apprehension. More than two weeks since the 59 prisoners were let out, many of whom Xns magnates, and fanatical Ts were angry that they should be thus let go, as the pasha told me; but with such vigilance on part of the Govt. there must be a good measure of security.
But for all this Xns will persist in staying inside their houses, not making any move towards trying to set up in market again. To be once many have nothing left, as they were plundered of all; & what can they set up on?
Our friends plan to leave this on or about Apr. 30th going via Erzroum & Trebd, the Mondy Eng. Consul possibly coming on to escort them from this place that far.
I wrote you last time how he begged the liberty to come debt remaining with any ~~of~~ unexpended on other departments. Mr. Knapp on getting his a/cs up find our station is quite a good deal behind. He will as treas. write on the state of the treasy, and he favors turning over some of Grants in aid after saving for Mosul building as I wrote last time to help another band of this city in erecting a new Chapel. I dont feel to endorse such a move considering straits of your Board, circumstances here &c. But may say more another time. Nothing

R. M. Cole

All well, safe. Present address, Aleppo. Dec. 17, 1895.

413

Bitlis, March 24. 1896

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Your note of the 13th ult. only reached me by the last post, and I hasten to say that the funds you speak of being in hand for Mr. M. A. Markarian are not here at Bitlis but at Erz or Consple, one or both places, which places she would touch at and not here, since Moush is her home between this and Erzroum. I have had several communications from Mr. Peet at Consple at the instance of Judge Terrell and also from the husband, resident at Fresno, Cal, at least one begging that I induce her to start on. While at Moush I had a talk with Mr. Markarian's brother Hagop respecting her going to U.S. but he said her answer was "It is not possible to travel in such a state of the country; while if reform comes about why should not my husband return here"?

If her own friends can't prevail upon her what can others do. I will write and learn if she has changed her mind now the reform is so distant. Who knows but she will seek to join in with our friends expecting to pass this way to come on to your world while I am to try and "hold the fort" alone, yet not all alone. Hastily, &c

R. M. Cole

I write Dr. Barton pretty often, as you may know.

Bitlis, March 24, 1896

Rec'd May 4

414

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-2-96
Ans'd 5-4-

Bitlis, March 24/96

Dear Dr. Barton,

Apparently you are doomed to disappointment again so far as Mr. Knapp's writing you this week is concerned; so I put in a copy you may be interested in, also inserting a note to Dr. Smith in reply to his respecting parties to go to U. S.

In reading the copy bear in mind that already opposition to me is being worked up by chief of Govt. soon before Mr. K. has left, as I hinted in mine ~~of~~ Judge Terrell was likely to be the case. It takes on the form of hindering the relief work mis. c. and I have det running here since my return from Sasoun the last of Nov. We have det to telegraphing Eng. Embassy and hope Sir Philip Currie

may come off best in this as he did in our work at Sassoun; still we must take into acct. that Eng is paying the penalty of delinquency in the important question, and is so far left that disappointment may be our lot this time. It is eight days to-morrow since my message was sent and no reply has come. However by special arrangement with Gregorian prelate such distribution is to be made (first of all to those on our list) that we hope to conserve life at least. I only put in this informal & hasty note. After you have done with the copy perhaps you will kindly mail to Frederick W. Cole, A. B. 20 East 50th St. N. Y. c/o Dr. Cutler Sch. to be kept on file, as we know not as to any of our chattels here whether they will ever see outside world in form of a copy bk. All well & join in greeting.

Hastily &c R. M. Cole

414

Bitlis, March 24, 1896.

415

Bitlis, March 30, 1896.

Hon. A. W. Terrell,

U.S.Minister to the Porte.

My dear Sir:-

Your Excellency will have been pretty well informed as to my colleague Mr. Knapp's case, through his own pen and telegrams over his own signature; but the latest developments, culminating in his enforced abduction from this place yesterday (Sunday) by government guard, devolves upon me to report.

I took to the Vali your Excellency's telegram stating "he was to wait for melting of snows so he could come with his family, via Moush". He "had no instructions", he said.

On Friday, 20th inst., two Turkish celebrities called on the part of the Pasha to inform me that "all of us were to leave". I expressed surprised that I, too, was included, supposing their objective point might be Mr. Knapp. He repeated "All you missionaries are to leave". "Is this order general, or only for Bitlis?" I asked. "I don't know that part only that this one is for Bitlis." "In how many days is the order to be executed?" I asked, as we should have much work to get ready. "As to particular number of days I don't know, but you may understand it as now, and make ready accordingly." But you should wait till we can get a reply to our telegram we will send our minister at once", I said. "I can't say that it will be thus delayed, but you can telegraph and by the time you get ready the reply

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may come." This and other collateral things were said in a friendly way that I need not treat of here. I should have said that on Wednesday evening the 25th at about four o'clock guards were stationedd all about our premises, the people of the town not being allowed to pass our houses.

The next day I called on the Pasha to see what was meant by putting us under seige, and now this roder that we wwre to leave Bitlis, while I informed him that I had telegraphed our minister in hopes of a prompt reply. His Excellency, the Vali, did not say that I was included in the order, but said "Mr. George Knapp was to leave in three days, since he had given him (the governor) much trouble and was criminal. He did not like him; he did not report on the schools, always replying that he had referred it to his minister, but had not reply from there as to the matter," etc.

But he declared (as he has in part at other times) that he had no aversion to me, was pleased with me, had confidence in me, etc., and would to write to Constantinople that I say on provided I would be careful to submit reports of schools in our field. To this I assented at once, of course, and said if we might only know how many times a year a report was desired we would comply. "It is not a question of times", said his Excellency, "but of willingness to submit such reports that is desired." I said that often delays came about because wee were not informed on time from Constantinople as to new regulations introduced, for which I asked his Excellency's indulgence, assuring him that we did not knowingly violate any such Turkish law.

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Quite a squad of police under their chief official, together ith some soldiers, were at our door before we were up Sunday morning, emanding haste in setting out on the way, albeit their day's stage was nly six hours! At nine o'clock A.M. I saw Mr. Knapp out on the road bout one mile. His body guard was only four Zabtiehs though the pecial force mentioned above accompanied us to the city limits where hey awaited my return.

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telegram dated on Satruday (!) stating that at a near day the Moush consul would go to Bitlis. I draw no inference as to above delay. I should state that Mr. Knapp telegraphed asking your Excellency to arrange the order so he might join the Americans going on from Harpoot instead of going to Alexandratta as per order of the Vali.

Begging to submit translation of telegrams on the succeeding page.

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Yours obediently,

(Signed) R. M. Cole.

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Translation of telegrams.

1. Telegram to U.S.Minister, Constantinople, March 26th.

"The government gives order that we are all to leave soon, via southern route. That road is bad. We await your arrangement of the matter. Cole."

2. The 26th again.

"The government has put our houses under close siege, not allowing our servants to go and return from market. Cole."

3. The 28th inst.

"I received your letter of March 14th. The government starts me ore tomorrow for all my (protest) to take me to Alexandretta direct, to expel me from the land. If it be possible secure an order so I ny change my route at Diarbekir and come on to you with the American friends coming on from Harpoot. Knapp."

Yours Excellency's at hand, 28th inst., at 9 o'clock A.M.

"For your protection and so no one will interfere with you, an order has been sent. When you leave for this way with your family let us know. Terrell."

Your Excellency will excuse if in haste and the trying circumstances I may have omitted any telegrams or put dates wrong.

(Signed) R. M. Cole.

Copy.

Britto McCrandell, 3d, 1776
Filed May 20

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(Signed) R. M. Cole.

No. 8. 414

Bitlis, April 21, 1896

J. W. Whittall, Esq. Chairman of Relief Commission

Dear Sir: Your circular letter of 25th ult. together with postscript referring to various amts of money sent, came to hand by last post.

The whole £1100 came to hand and have informed you by telegraph & letter before this.

I have mailed you direct in reg.d packages the following but may not have all reached you. Nos. 4 & 7 inclusive of dates 10th, 16th, 24th & 31st ult. I hope none of them may have been lost.

You will have learned through the Embassy that our relief is again going on full blast. Through the vigorous efforts of Sir Philip Currie aid here on the ground of his vice-consul Mr. Hampson things are fairly adjusted now, though in place of one the Commission of Gov.ts sends two members who sit down the distribution. So far as I can appreciate the work may now go on satisfactorily. The Vali, after calling on Mr. Hampson, came to see me, and looked in on the throng of poor that had crowded our premises in unusual number. Both he, Mr. H. and members of the Commission who sit as inspectors of the work think so highly of our industrial system of relief that we are

No. 8.

Pretoria, April 21, 1896

To H. Whitehead, Esq. Chairman of Pretoria Consulate

Dear Sir: Your circular letter of 15th ult. respecting matters therein specially referring to obscene conduct of natives and. Cause Offence by that Head.

We have received the 1100 copies to hand and have informed your by telegraph duties before this. We have arranged for distribution on 29th Prestonpan to be followed with other and have all be ready then.

Yes. A copy of circular of date no. 16 of 24th ult.

I take occasion of stating here that our Local Government will take leave through the Government Gazette our belief in repressing on full extent. Meanwhile the enforcement appeals of Sir Melville Cousins and have on the position of their area Consular Mr. Hourpoor having been the family a dynamite and strength on place of our the Commissioner of Law: Natives members who will draw the Pretoria etc.

So far as now appears the work accomplishing a satisfactory, after calling on Mr. Hourpoor, cause you, and leader in our the strength of place that has brought our Government in renewed number.

Meet the Mr. H. and members of the Commissioner with as complete of the work taking a satisfactory of our administrative objection of which Mr. Hourpoor

continuing in this line, notwithstanding it makes it all the harder for us workers in distribution. Added to the work of spinning, knitting & weaving that I have described in last reports I broached the thought of a little road building in a few very important places of town, and found the idea was especially attractive to all. If all goes well we may at no distant day make a trial of this - thus giving idle men a chance to come out of their hiding to help support the family on day-wages instead of so much of the burden resting on busy women's fingers. As to the burden of carrying forward this work in such a place as this under present environments my report will have given you some idea.

Home work our own servants, people and preachers have done take hold of it and they only within our own enclosure, work in a few cases. Being responsible for faithful & proper administration of the funds I have naturally turned to our own trusted men two of whom are preachers - one of them an efficient assistant at Mowsh for a time under the Lassoun relief.

As with ourselves so for them or other assistants here we have entered no charge for regular salary though make some grants now & then as an

Continuing in this vein, we have illustrated the work of the Treasury in our overseas administration.

Madam, if the work of planning, building, staffing, equipping & training the civilian in Post-war reparation & rehabilitation through a little more building in a few more important places of town and country, the work will be more attractive to all. If all goes well in our civilian day we take a turn of the - thread giving able men & women to serve such of their fellows in need & suffering the opportunity of serving on charitable or statutory bodies, as well as the burden of conferring honour & distinction on a place in this world's present movements & will be a place where Peace & Love dwell.

Where our own country, people and people are in their own state, both of the and their children. Our own overseas, over in a place where there is opportunity for faithful & fruitful service. Our own overseas, over in a place where we are for the sake of our fellows & our fellows. Here is the: efficient administration of overseas in a country for the Commonwealth.

On a little overseas in the future or other dominions have in their custody the charge in regular relations through which some people have [illegible] on our

encouragement feeling sure benefactors would cheerfully indorse such, more especially in some cases where the parties suffered from the riot.

But from the present outlook of things this work should go on in some form. We must harvest at least or not a few must die, a special demand for seed at least being already upon us. In view of the magnitude of a work resting on so heavily some especially now that one so helpful as Mrs. Cole has been in the work, is to leave in a few days, and I be left all alone, I am at the suggestion of our friends at Conifa Bible House inviting Rev. Mr. Coan of Cronmiah to come on to help me till Autumn. There has been thought of having some one come up from Conifa or vicinity but that would take more time for him to go on the ground, as well as more expense. Probably Mr. Coan, if he can come at all, would only ask for extra expenses above what he would be at in C not making any claim for salary, though he belongs to the Presbyterian and not our American Board. Naturally I should, if my resignation is not to be accepted, prefer one of the missionary fraternity to help me in meeting the responsibilities of this work. Any other secular agent that might come up from Conifa

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

could first of all demand a liberal salary aside from all expenses. Dr. Raynolds and I feel the first can most conscientiously sought to keep all such expenses down for the good of the fund, whether wisely or not. I shall hope to give you an estimate either by this or next post as actual need before next harvest.

Permit me to submit the following

No. of Yards cloth given out	32½
" Garments 7. Dresses 15. Shirts 8. Socks 18 for	108
Yards Cotton in from weavers	46
Paid weavers in Rittig & Khoultig	2255
Purchase millet 732. Rice 58 spinners. Sewing 300	1532
" wool & bedclothes 1177. Cotton purchase 111	6376
Yarn sent to refugees & planted in town	350
Passed to various families 7 quilts & 2	140
Wheat given out to spinners goods	220.
Distributed by Prelacy which was one hundred & ten	10000

Yours very respectfully

R. M. Cole

Whittall, Bitlis, Apr. 21, 1896.

Rec'd May 25.

Consul. 7-6

Bitis, May 19. 1896

417

Items of the 26th Mch lies before me, and seems to me another has come of earlier date that I may not have referred to, though my eye does not fall on it just now, & post-time is nearly up. In the end, for all what has been said & done by pen & tongue, no plan was arranged, & Cook had to leave Bitis open long enough to take the families as far as Khamons. I telegraphed C. to arrange so the Consul hold on here till I might get back, to which Mr. Peet wired "The Legation is arranging the business", but just how I dont see nor care since I have been on and come back to find things have gone on fairly well & there seems tolerable safety, so far as appearance goes, for all threats. The season is fully a month behind ordinary years, and as it was our hardly started quite too early. We had not a little trouble from snow & mud on the table-land three hours out, & so on for five; while after I left them at Khamons such serious rains and cold winds pursued me, and presumably them where they were, I much fear they will have had a very hard time. I hoped for a tel. announcing safe arrival at Cairo before this time & am troubled not to hear yet.

Rev. Dr. Barton, Rev. James Barton, D.D. Dear Sir: I get the time received his form whatever of appointment. Yours as hand for him & wife. Sorry for them, I am very too near. Now can or can not Sec. Bd. Foreign Missions do so a little more this may be a little disappointment to them. Dr. Barton, Dear Sir: Yours of the 26th Mch lies before me, and seems to me another has come of earlier date that I may not have referred to, though my eye does not fall on it just now, & post-time is nearly up. In the end, for all what has been said & done by pen & tongue, no plan was arranged, & Cook had to leave Bitis open long enough to take the families as far as Khamons. I telegraphed C. to arrange so the Consul hold on here till I might get back, to which Mr. Peet wired "The Legation is arranging the business", but just how I dont see nor care since I have been on and come back to find things have gone on fairly well & there seems tolerable safety, so far as appearance goes, for all threats. The season is fully a month behind ordinary years, and as it was our hardly started quite too early. We had not a little trouble from snow & mud on the table-land three hours out, & so on for five; while after I left them at Khamons such serious rains and cold winds pursued me, and presumably them where they were, I much fear they will have had a very hard time. I hoped for a tel. announcing safe arrival at Cairo before this time & am troubled not to hear yet.

Relations with me, and the work in the land, fortunately - only known what Stated Clerk reports does not with to go to Cairo. Why not let him go to Mr. If he cant return here. He is a good man & should not be lost to the work. Rev. James Barton, it is too near. Now can or can not Sec. Bd. Foreign Missions do so a little more this may be a little disappointment to them. Yours as hand for him & wife. Sorry for them, I am very

Had I time I might speak of the trip round and thoughts suggested by it. Returned via Mosul, where I spent a little over three days at Sassoun accounts. Arrived here on the 16th inst. having had rain again most of the way from M. on.

To-day having been giving out cotton again, the noisy multitude thronging our yard below. It is quiet now as I write at evening - the poor ones having withdrown. There was great joy when people learned that I had actually returned, as not a few feared I should not come. The chief official at M. when asked for my guard to escort me on wondered how I was allowed to return - hinting how he understood we were all ordered out of B.!

But of all these things and the land generally our living epistles can tell you viva voce should Providence bring them safely through, and I better not enlarge here.

As to Mr. Richardson's case I have expressed myself pretty clearly in the past. I have little hope for anything like a majority in the mission for his return. As I have said in the past your old station, Aph, is where he should have another trial if anywhere, as policy & things are well marked out there, while the dignity and seniority would be good restraint, and they need a pusher there. These things ~~and they need a pusher there~~ great caution is needed to get along with officials, while Mr. R's record in Em for this was very poor, as you know. —

You may be interested in enclosures that might go on to the Ely sisters, Buffalo. Hastily, &c.

R. M. C.

Bitlis, Nov. 17, 1890.
Rec'd June 29.

Rev. James L. Barton D. D.
Beirut, Syria.
May 26, 1896

No. 2.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Your kind, sympathising letter of 7th ult. lies before me, in which you quite naturally ask for "a line by every Post." I am tempted to put in extracts of other effusions of the pen thinking, possibly, it might be of some use, for you know the Bs (bees) are supposed equal to extracting some honey from the poorest flower! When any such enclosures have no further use on your desk, and you should think of it you might pass them on to the Ely sisters at Buffalo, who are so very eager for every word from Beirut.

Yes, all you read as to treatment of my associate was true enough, as you know well by this time. It is a time of a little more anxiety here during these Bairam days just closing to-day, more especially as the pot seems boiling, said to be set going by G. R's arrival at Constn and challenging his opponents to come before him in that court. Whether there be any truth in such reports we are not yet informed - the Post, now due, not having yet arrived. It is affirmed on pretty fair testimony that certain chiefs of Ys (10) and (4) Xns are either to be exiled or

else are verily booked for the capital as above. All such things being bandied about as town talk does not tend as a quietus of the situation. And yet to me (tho not present to be sure this Oct 25th) there seems quite too much timidity manifested - many shutting themselves into their domiciles till they go bankrupt, sick or mad. Of course there is reason for such a course in this imprisonment is still so near and threatening. The Lord have compassion! My trip on to Khamons gave me a bit of change and I feel all the more equal to the multifarious duties that devolve upon me. The friends at Comfie have kindly set to cogitating as to how some minute man might be sent to my relief, and I have at their instance cordially seconded their invitation preceding it by sending on my written invitation to Mr. Coan of Cromwich to this effect, but yet get no reply. With so much effort as is put forth by the chief to implicate me moving on so cautiously and in "home-spun" ways I half fear the entrance of an outsider might provoke new difficulties. You will take this leaflet as my hasty budget for this week, possibly gathering somethg from enclosures as to what is going on and how busy I am. Take these hasty scribblings passed on as watchwords or passwords from the Kondish hills. Hastily yr. Watchman.

(R. M. C.)

Pittis, May 26, 1876.

Rec'd June 27

No. 3.

419

Rec'd. 7-6

Bitlis, June 3/96

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

Yours of Apr. 13th at hand. Thanks for all sympathy shown. All such words then time are like "apples of gold in pictures of silver".

I am running in the strength of the change I had from the journey out to Khamous, and enduring any manifold duties well. Nothing striking to report that I have time to go into as I wish to make up the budget to go into this week's Post, so can only give only the most hasty note reporting health, &c. Bairam passed off quietly as usual with extra patrol of soldiers in the wards. I made fine official calls on the vali & chiefs of departments. Two days later called on some chief to talk up relief work - the Armenian abbot being present by mutual understanding.

I enclose what may have some interest to you since can't write a letter proper. You might pass on to Ely sisters when no longer needed.

In very much haste but cordially to all

Our eyes are "unto the Hills" &c R. M. Cole.

Bitlis, June 3, 1896.

Rec'd June 27.

No. 4.

Bitlis, June 10. 1896

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

"All is quiet on the Potomac", though conditions rather were strained for a few days because of an affray between Kondish robbers and a few police some 15 hours to the northward. Two were killed from police & others on both sides wounded. Seventy police under their chief, Alaibey, have gone out to the scene, and a few fanatics wish to hold the robbers up to have been disturbers of the peace from the north country: but Gov^t does not say so I think.

Am well and working on with assurance. Crowds are flocking into our yard for the days distribution of relief, three days of which we have this week for the city by wards and a number of villages. Was glad to hear Sunday by tel. that our funds was safely landed in Erz^d.

This very hasty note with enclosures must suffice for this time as post is just leaving. Not a few letters & some tels. fail to get through. I must bless Mr. Swett for his fund remittal this reached me all right by reg^d. Greetings from Kondistan.

You may send the "notes" to Miss Ely.

R. M. Cole

Bitlis, June 10, 1896.

Rec'd July 6.

Rev. James Barton, D.D. Corr. Sec. A.B.C.F.M.
Ans'd. [illegible]

Dear Dr. Barton;

Your missionary "plant" at this lonely outpost is flourishing as well as could be expected for the "long John" Yankee. Am well, busy of course, and looking up for the future of the Master's work.

Was quite a bit encouraged by yours of 9th & 18th ult. both coming to hand by yesterday's post. Former expressing desire to hear as to my associate and latter speaking of receipt copy of my letter respecting his case.

Very glad to know you of the Board are not discouraged at the dark cloud in the east, and disposed to sound a retreat; but that on the contrary to know they are coming, blessed Jesus, a few more workmanlike. Good statesmanship and heart do not beat a retreat nor resign under fire. We sincerely hope the three strong points discussed with uncle Sam are really up to the sticking point; as that increased respect for him may obtain here. As things now are the interests of ourselves in the land pretty generally trail in the dust. I was blessing Mr. Swett last week to you but find that part of the remittance did fall out after all, perhaps having been opened. Please pass this on for him to read, as safer than to go to him direct. Only two large, long envelopes arrived & one short one - the latter not seeing to have been opened either, but what was my surprise to have three leaflets of same periodical whisked up for me to read by special "underground" process. Sometime when all life lessons are in Sunlight and you may know as not even. Hastily, &c R. M. C.

Since receipt your letter, as way to be may keep expedition
Boundary and [illegible]

Later. Bequeathing Mens to be and is much fear lest the expressed here, the factors case on the alert. Send me letter home. Fear lest through Ex. Sec. Mr. Swett for [illegible] hasty form [illegible] R. M. C.

Dear Dr. Barton:

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421

Rev. R. M. Cole
Chinkiang
June 18. 1896

over

P.S. Many thanks for all your sympathy and planning respecting my lonely condition and thought of some one's coming to my relief. But I half fear an outsider just at this time might again be an irritating element, while for me, so far as appearance goes, there is nothing of the sort though he knows full well what the anti-foreign feeling is for us all. Sensible friends have thought of sending over Mr. Baird, since Chambers & Coan have failed them, but I should be inclined to see if Mr. Dzwo could not come up for his sch. vacation, as it would only be touring his own field as far as Sert two days distant; he is a man of years (young men suspect à la Yuk,) and for language would be as well off as Baird and the expense be much less. Think shall write him this post. R.M.C.

Bitters, June 16, 96.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-20-96
Ans'd

No. 6.

Bitlis, June 23/96.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Ere this reaches you I trust you may have near at hand our living epistles, that will be able to give such graphic description as to leave less demand for the cold pen. But alas, that such dire phases of question in the land are constantly arising of late that there are many things that should be chronicled that have taken place to the East of us since they left us. One of our outstations distant only five hours, but fully in the Vilayet south of the west end of the lake, has been largely demolished so far as the people are concerned though at latest ape villages that way had not been plundered. We are in terrible anxiety as to V. itself and know very serious conditions have obtained there, and we fear the end of it has not yet come, but careful facts from eye witnesses have not reached this city, that I know of.

But the movement there has been enough to set such a wave of desolation going from that point on through the province to the south of the lake, as has left little more to be desired by the seething hordes that drift hither and thither hunting down humanity in such groveling ways as they have done elsewhere, though have shown more compassion to women & children as a general thing, and as I said above did not seem commissioned to plunder the villages as yet. I must not go into details, though if the news from V. is not out the outside world may be enlightened by this time. We have no tel. connection with V. as

present. We are happy to say that our Vali is working hard to turn back the lawless, blood thirsty hordes that lord it according to their own will, scattering death & desolation on every hand, as if having some special commission to execute. But we are happy to say that our Vali seems doing all he can to keep order here, and I have good hope he will succeed. But you can fancy how glad I am at such a time to have the family removed where they may not see and hear these poor terrified ones about that seem almost beside themselves. Special police has been sent out to the border of the V. vilayet to see that fiendish wrath is not again let loose in this vilayet. Think of that antotalion, Khuntsorkin, where for years we have had a native teacher till the last two or three. We suppose one or two ch. members have gone, while the place was largely Prot. in sentiment, and now we know not if any men have escaped, some one young man once a pupil in our B. Sch. and he was absent at a near village, but on approaching the village he heard the wails, perceived what was going on and made his escape.

Am afraid I forgot to speak of having received your Apr. 13th letter in which you referred to the new pamphlet on 'Heroic'. Mrs. C. had an eye into it at Erzrum and wrote me about it. What is to be expected of men but that they hold to their post for all the times, and I have been pleased to see that our manly sons, one of whom (Frank) you spoke of in a recent letter, endorse papa in such a course for all their terrible anxiety "We know the shepherd should not desert his flock" says this brave lad. — Post is in I hear but this letter must go before I can know what letters are at hand most likely.

Later. Yours dated the 4th ult. the very day I started with the party for Kharpoot just now at hand. Thanks for all sympathy. We work on as usual in good hope. Thanks for your pamphlet at hand

P.S. Expense lack of accounts as it is impossible to get documents or blank forms here

Rev. L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

I don't seem to catch up to as I write you at much length yet, but pass on enough in one form or another to show you how I am.

The more we hear of regions south of the Lake, even in the Van vilayet, the worse it is. Two of your people from our outstation Khuntsorkin (Apple price) have just arrived, but I have not had time to listen to their heart-rending rehearsal yet. They were able by dodging here and there to run the gantlet while others of their number were being hacked down in the tomahawk process, the miscreants not willing to waste cartridges on the ~~gha~~ gaghiours! In another more distant village 150 are said to have gone. Our outstation people to gather again in their so desolated homes and have come for help together with a word of encouragement as looking to this. What are alive are scattered hither & thither, hardly any one knows where. — I only had a Postal from Dr. Raynolds Van this written from his mental perturbation at the time, or from intent was so blindly written I make little out of it anyway, - only it would appear things must have been fully as bad as we have heard.

Seems to me I spoke in last weeks budget as to yours at hand by this Post dated the very day he left here, May 4th. Heard from my family this Post all dressed just as they were embarking for Constple - the 15th inst. letters having been delayed. They may reach you next week or the following. Yours & R.M.C.

P.S. I can relish good food & hard work now going well.

Rev. Kluntsorkin Kerpik.

R.M.C.

Butts

B.N.H.B.

Dear Butts, send us a bit from N.Y. semi-monthly tribune they are so interesting & lacking matter

Yours truly

Closes 1/- closing up Nos in 89 Sept. 104 numbers thanks.

423

No. 17

Times. 6

Dr. Barton

Dr. Barton

Dr. Barton

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-3-96
Ans'd 10

No. 8.

Bitlis, July 4. 1896

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

This is the veritable Independence day, but little about it save the date has had significance for me patriotic as I am to our blessed country. I have, however, made a call on our vali to speak for the release of a porter whose wife & child were killed, and he barely escaped after losing all he had in a village to the southwest of here. Reaching us after such terrible experiences we allowed him to hold on, and he has been helpful in our relief as gate tender, water bringer, &c; but like so many others these times has been run in, and I spoke a few words in his behalf to the vali who gave me hope so far as words go. So far did I work independence. This is not the land to talk or even think independence. Long ere this reaches you my family will have reached New land, N. Y. From what Mrs. C. wrote me at Constipl they may not sail from Liverpool before the 16th inst. I am sorry they are to reach there so late, and are to be so much exposed to heat en route, as the party seems electing to go via Italy. But the season was and is still so much behind (fully a month) and they had

such a hard overland thro' seemed no feasible way but for them to take good rest at Em, while this at Fred^k was rather enforced as well from need of waiting till Dr. Parmelee could be ready to constitute the male part of the escort. I was not a little tried that Mr. MacNaughton, who was at Em, and to go on to Fred^k any way could not have held on just a few days longer, so Mr. Allen of Nan might have been spared the hardship from Em on, and the Board so much extra expense.
Miss Grace Knapp, as you know, is at Em. Though work, which she has been able to do for going on to a year, has been outside our field naturally her life is with our Station. But the case of one of the teachers of Girls' Sch. she took on for vacation and change on score of health is rather more perplexing, and I hope Miss Mary Ely will talk it up with the N.B. people who will doubtless allow it though for our male Dept I doubt if daily and expense for so long a time could be allowed, and such a precident is already, even before this is settled, (for I have referred it to Miss Ely) beginning to bear fruit by still another teacher, one of her mates, proposing to take a year off, and go over to Salmas, Persia! However, I have written Miss Ely on the matter who will try to be careful I trust. All quiet as usual in town though in limits outside getting bad. Well & hopeful as usual.
In much haste & R. McLean

Dictd, July 4, '96.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-10-96
Ans'd 10

Bitlis, July 14, 1896

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,

Dear Dr. Barton;

Yours of the 8th ult. has just reached my hand, and I hasten to say if I give you anything it can be a Postal, as I sent my last one to Dr. R., while no more can be had at this office they not designing to sell us stamps soon.

Thanks for sympathy bestowed this way on your return to your office after two weeks' absence, and your expressed desire that I be not left alone.

As you will have learned Mr. Baird of Monastir is the Stanley this time that plunges into this Houndistan darkness in search of another Emin. It was kind in him to thus volunteer, though late as is the season, and relief work so far on, it seems rather hard on him to take such a long, hard journey, to say nothing of the expense, if he is to return in the autumn, and he has not much of a language for these parts I suppose. However, I am glad to welcome him of course, and doubtless he can be very helpful. Looking to Mr. Chambers tel. and letter he was to reach here this evening, but it is now nearly 9 at night and he has not arrived. I trust he will meet with no difficulty, though Ds. who heard of his coming showed irritation.

Refugees are reaching us from Isarjgan south of Van lake coming in on the sly lest they be turned back. But the latest now is that an order is out that they are all to gather from regions where they scattered, and soldiers have been sent from Van to protect them and return to them their booty. My faith in these lines, is not strong. That whole regions is in ruins, though more than half of the people made their escape. Not a few are ~~not~~ to be found anywhere, they probably having been brought down by cruel pursuers at longer range, like any other partridges, as he knows was the case in Sassoun. Heart-rending rehearsals reach us that there can be little good in going over at present in this connection. The dear Lord knows all these things, and yet allows it to go on for some reason unknown to us.

Oct. July 14. '96.

Okay 15th. Mr. Baird not yet arrived and I must hasten off my letters. Of course he shall telegraph his arrival, so you will hear thence if all has gone well with him. The roads to Erz. seem fairly safe. As per last letters our friends should be 'taking shipping' from Liverpool to-morrow. I had no letters from them, pilgrims as they were in Europe they naturally not being able to write much, nor had I anything from Constple. Eyesun hardly notes that are enough to report health. Sincerely Yr R. M. Cole

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Bethesda
Aug. 12. 1889

Just as the Post is leaving I hasten an only a note to let you know that though we are almost staggering under the weight of duties and obstacles as the enclosure will show yet we are fairly well. I run off to Moush for an 8 days absence to get a bit of change of scene & rest and look into affairs with reference to Sassoun & other, and feel rather improved from the change. I find good help and congenial, brotherly association in Mr. Baird, though his entrance here, just as I suspected might be, caused some irritation, though he trust it will blow over now I have seen the vali two three times about it. We are so near under sign I had telegraphed to the P.O. myself or beyond the guard outside our gates lest the police sub to "protect" (?) them away from a nation. Thanks for yours of May 5th speaking of the Moush massacres having en route for Fresno. Mr. Peet writes me they are delayed at Cp. for want of money. None news from Dr. Barton for some weeks. Suppose you may have met our living epistle

Bitlis, Aug. 12, 1896.

Rec'd Sep. 8.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Boston, August 19, 1896

Dear Dr. Barton;

Your kind sympathetic letters of 6th & 7th inst. came together by yesterday's post. As I have no postal cards at hand (for our P. M. will not even supply us with stamps - they having to be purchased and put on at the office) there can be little hope of securing postal cards. Still I can put upon a leaflet like this what does not take much time or strength, along with which I may send some copies that will perhaps be worth the reading.

Yes, before I had yours as to the Richardson Mrs. R's to her brother-in-law, Mr. Baird, was at hand and Mr. B. read her quotation of your letter to them on the subject. I have felt your old station might have given them another chance, and when Dr. Barnum went home from the Marden meeting, where Cummings & the Rs were in particular, were considered, rather inclined to advocate giving them a chance, but wrote me he found every man, woman if not child opposed to such so it was dropped. If he is out with a bee on questions over here, & that too over his own name as did Mr. G. of Van he had better not come to the mission again for this reason alone.

Yes, it was indeed no small sacrifice for Mr. Baird and his family to have him come on here to help me out. He seems so congenial and fits into this place so well if Mr. K. is not going to be able to return here I shall begin to advocate having him stay on permanently, and in any case hope to keep him for this winter, as relief work is very heavy indeed. It seems to me Mr. Knupp would be a capital man for Harpoot, and his wife is a charming lady. Why not think of him for that place, as he does not like Erzroom? I have been so throttled with work ever since coming from Sassoun, almost staggering to point of breaking down, that I have not been able to make up any Station Report, nor have I yet sent on Estimates for '97. Should you receive no such please give us just as full consideration as possible, as all our helpers are looking to us for work though we have felt obliged to cut their salaries now for some months. Please bear these things in mind when the consideration of Estimates is up. I have asked Mr. K. to make up report & estimates, since he must have the time at E. which I have not here. We have a larger people to feed (right on through the winter if funds come up) in Sarigan alone (part of van vilayet so. of lake near us) than than all we had to feed last year in Sassoun. Hastily, &c L. M. Cole

P.S. I wrote Dr. Smith briefly last week. C.

Bitlis, Aug. 19, 1896.

Copy

Bitlis Aug. 11, 1896.

428

Mr. A. W. Ferrell
Minister of U.S.A.
Constantinople.

My dear Mr. Ferrell:—

I wrote you last week about the local authorities accusing me of being connected with a certain Nishan Aber because of a piece of paper of which I had no human knowledge and in a vest I never saw. In a postscript I alluded to the police surveilance which had just begun to be exercised & which has grown to be so intense & so restrictive that we must complain to you of it as unjustly depriving us of our rights & which we suspect is intended to make our lives so unendurable that we shall quit the country.

Mr Cole has spoken to the Vali Pasha about it twice, but instead of mending, it is continually growing worse. Not only have several persons been called to the government buildings & asked why they went near us & those who are not Protestants have been threatened with imprisonment if they went near us again. Not only are people threatened but searched on leaving us so that many do not dare to approach us even for transacting commercial matters necessarily connected with our relief business. This morning the servant who has for many months taken our letters to the post & received from it letters for us, when at our gate with the mail which he had just rec'd from the P. O. had the letters & papers taken from him by the policeman who "protects" us. Mr Cole at once went out & found the policeman with the letters in his hand. Mr C— demanded them of him but the policeman refused to give them up & took them off. About an

now save the letters except three at least were delivered to us. These three are still undelivered.

Yesterday we sent you a telegram to the effect that we do not [illegible] such restrictive protection, adding that my passport had not yet been delivered up. Since beginning this letter two policemen have called & gave me my passport & my "yol teskere" so that part of our complaint relating to the passport is no longer in full force. The police officer said that the police here would be changed. But if we are to have the same system of restriction & intimidation to our employees, & others with whom we have commercial & to those wishing to worship with us we might almost as well consider ourselves under siege and give up the huge & growing relief work now [illegible] on our hands because 1st the Armenian Vicar is in prison & 2nd by the [illegible] of the Christians to engage in relief work.

We now request your Excellency to take such steps as will secure our rights not only as agents of the Relief Work, but as missionaries both in city but in the surrounding region.

Most respectfully yours

Rec'd Sept. 8. 1896.

1896 Distribution in Bitlis

July 24	To various villages	1140 souls	}	6422 francs gold
" "	" " "	2659 "		
Aug 1st	" " "	4764 "		9182 " "
" "	" add'l "	291 "		814 " "
" 5	" "	1350 "		2528 " "
" 8	" "	3664 "		4857 " "
" 10	" "	3301 "		8124 " "
	Bread distributed		"	369 " "
		17169	"	32296
	Distribution to special cases, bread &c			719

J. L. B.
Rec'd 19-12-96
Ans'd 19

No. 12.

429

Bitlis, Sept. 15. 1896

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Yours of the 11th ult. came to hand the last Post but one and had the right ring to it. It was later in date than Mrs. C's last that she must have mailed before calling on you in Boston. I am very glad you could meet and advise with the cheery one as to their arrangements respecting going to Oberlin. Yes, she is firmly resolved to return to Bitlis in the Spring, but we must wait on Providence in the matter. As I have before stated I find much help and congeniality in Mr. Baird, and only wish he might be assigned us permanently, if Mr. Knapp is not to return which I fear would not be wise without much change in the status quo.

It seems nothing went to you last week but inclosures, though I labored under the impression Mr. B. had written as he was putting up the letter. Moreover, as it would reach you so near time of your going to Ml. meeting - if indeed this does it also - that you will care little to take time for reading letters.

Your letter to Mr. B. as stated Clerk of their Mission, as also the copy of the same to our Mission at hands of our acting Clerk, Mr. Chambers,

both came to hand by our yesterday's Post, and was indeed a sad refrain as looking to the future. We hardly done reading it when four of our young teachers, rather recent graduates from B. high sch, called to see if we were not ready to assign them salaries again, and so four schools be set running once more. But what could we say with the breath of your letter upon us! Had not our Station accts. run up such a debt the past two or three years it would not be so hard. It is indeed very inopportune to have to so largely disband our work and leave our helpers without work these times. I hardly think it wise to tell you all the discouraging things they had to say, but considering environments in the land you can fancy what it would be. They and some others of our people would seem to feel we might turn in relief funds to make up lack in our Board's Treasy, which, of course, we can do without special instruction. If only there were right of way - proper papers being available - not many helpers would linger long in the land anyway. I send on a draft of Estimates for Bitis for 1897 for Mr. Knapp to pass upon and hasten on to you to meet you as you return from the meeting, following which the Estimates of the Missions come under review I believe. The Lord be present abundantly in the meeting, and lead to the largest & best results. Hastily &c R. M. Cole

We are well, and all is quiet.

Bitis, Sep. 15, 1896.

430

Bittis, Sept. 29. 1896

J. L. B.
Rec'd 10-26-96
Ans'd 11-7

Dear Dr. Barton

Only time to say that by sending this "trumpery" at your hands on to Mrs. Cole does it mean that you must feel obliged to read it unless you wish to glance it through. By sending materials through your hands in this way you may be able to pull out a bit, for you know the bees can get something from the poorest of flowers!

We are well, all is quiet though in the provinces there is no little plundering on part of Kaffirs. They say Shaka came & passed on to Natal & what did he do, so we will do what we like. Sheep & cattle being driven off by the hundred & poor Xns face up to the winter with one foot in the grave, as we were. We are turning relief so as to save life & manhood as

far as possible. The outlook is dark enough indeed, and
hardly less so for our mission work proper. By the way, Mr
Chambers writes that he is getting in some extras to help out o
Native Agency, Edu., &c. I know the policy of the Board is against
special appeals. Possibly we might have gotten correctly up fro
friends if we had tried; but now that I see by the one Herald
abroad (& this per favor of Treas. in special careful wrapping) f
long time, sums are coming in for such, ~~and~~ I trust f
will bear Bittis in mind and write us accordingly.
While we stand down in this darkness from at that end will surely
good hold of the ropes, in proper material props, as well as prayer
As our Station has been allowed to get in debt the past few years it comes
the harder for us now. Helpers are leaving the field as we can employ the
It comes hard to see lack of funds combine with the Ds. to wipe our work from the
We know the cause of humanity in this land takes the Boards constituency, but let th
give with good discretion through constituted channels so as not to be decein
I know of natives in your land that collect to send out to certain in our m
plenty of money that often only goes to their particular friends. Blessed
that give in such causes but all the more so are those who do so wi
Notes. &c R-M- C

431

J. L. B.
Rec'd 11-7-96
Ans'd 7

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Foreign Secretary of A.B.C.F.M.

Dear Dr. Barton;-

Now that you are in the heat of the political campaign over in Boston, it has occurred to us to show our practical interest in it down amid this darkness of Turkey by making a forecast of the future which judged by the past, is likely to realize some changes in our diplomatic service at Constantinople with the coming in of a new Administration-a change which we would fain hope may not be for the worse.

The most important of all is to have the right kind of officials at the capital, when under ones elsewhere will be manageable enough and all go well if only our Government will do its part.

So far as we missionaries in these parts are cocerned we should be glad to have such a man as Dr. Milo A. Jewett, now U.S. consul at Sivas, in just as high a position before the Sublime Porte as precedent would allow-at least to be consul-general; for, having been born and reared in this country and being familiar with the Turkish, as well as French & German languages, but above all knowing so well the Turk and all the demands of American interests in the land, we deem him admirably fitted for the position, and we trust you in the Rooms at Boston will bring some influence to bear should Dr. Jewett's candidacy for the office be brought forward.

Personally we have had considerable correspondence with Dr. Jewett for the past year & half during these mixed times in Bitlis and regions, and have gained pleasant impressions of the man and of his fitness for high diplomatic service in the land.

Feeling confident you will take such action respecting the above matter as the merits of the case demand

I am very respectfully,

R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Kourdistan,
October 2d. 1896.

Missionary of the A.B.C.F.M.

Bitlis, Oct. 7, 1896.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 11-27-96
Ans'd 12-8

Bitlis, Oct. 21, 1896

Dear Dr. Barton;

So far as frequency goes I am not sure that you fare so well in hearing from Bitlis as when I was all alone. However there does not seem much of interest to write since the heart and head are sick at seeing all the dilly-dally policy of Europe as to Turkey. Meanwhile poor humanity is rapidly diminishing, some lifeful helpful even making their escape, as Dr. K. writes they are from Van too. We have ventured out to some nearer villages for all some of the more timid think me indiscreet in doing so.

This last Sab. I spent at Khoultig a large village of 380 houses, but only two hours distant, and one of the brightest spots spiritually in our field. What a joy it was to that nearly a score of storm-tossed Ch. members to come around the table of our Lord after so long a time of deprivation. How fruitful were thoughts of the terrible fast that were called to mind in the throng that crowded & sought to enter our large building! Sad hearts there almost refusing to be comforted because their loved ones are not while the living are hardly in better condition. We are not without hope the Kh. preacher Krikore, whom you know, may be persuaded to return there this winter, though having made his escape at time of the riot he has been living in a part of my house ever since. He has had first and last to pay £8 ransom for his and his young wife's life, tho it is cheap enough at that.

Through Conspln we hear the Board has closed the year with no debt and had $500 in the Treasury. This is good so far as it goes. Harpoot kindly passes us on their bal. against us of £15 to help us out. Our station had been allowed to get in debt which has made it hard for us such times. We are surprised and feel it somewhat that almost all the stations as Erzm, Hpt &c. tell of receiving extra sums to help out their approps we hear of nothing. Is it because we get no information from bad communication, or does it mean that we and Kotlis have no friends to think on us such very dark times. Have we not been bearing the burden and heat of the day. Such times as these and will they not cast a thought on us and the work here? We have to admit that overwhelmed as we have been for a year and half now in trying to keep humanity alive in Sas-soun and here we have had little time or strength to write up the work proper, for which reason our cause may be suffering. However, we have felt an assurance in you who know so well all the claims this way. In humanitarian lines we have and are seeking to make every pres. go just as far as possible - leaving the people to sleep on straw-beds, instead of having these heavy wool mattresses to expensive as is the indulgence in some other regions where thousands of pounds in place of our hundreds reach them. I am happy in having the help of Mr. Baird who feels as I do on all these things. Yours hastily

R. M. Cole

Oct. 21, '96.

4211
433

Bitlis, Nov. 10, 1896

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Permit me in this sort of irregular way to acknowledge your kind letter of the 25th Sept. at hand only yesterday, and that gave good cheer. We here belong to the Sub-in Board as part of that so-called class in N.S. can realize. People there that are invalids may, perchance, read or be read to, but with us we can have almost no papers, and they so irregular that our daily literature is a very disjointed affair any way. Letters, too, are more or less irregular. Yours that reached me yesterday should have been at hand at least a week ago, but went down to Hay its respects to Mesopotamia first, apparently, as did one from our son in N.Y. However, this is not the worst of it, but when we learn long afterwards how letters have been lost that comes the hardest to bear of all. However, whoever lives in this land is to expect all such experiences in time to come, pursuant of such reforms(?)! We shall wait anxiously to see if papers in regard to the Board's meeting at Toledo can reach us. We have been glad to hear that the year closed without a debt, but our appropriations for the male deficit being only half, while our station had been allowed to get into debt we have felt obliged to suspend almost everything till we may overtake the accounts but naturally we lose some of our helpers in this way.

There seem to special helps come in for some of the stations, whether from special appeal or not I don't know. So far as we know none has come for B. who was in great need from being in debt, as I have said. Two of our recent graduates from Highsch. have left for Russia while our Shekhraghoub (Boulanoubk) preacher Khaching now for more than a year stated supply in Bitlis where they have given nothing towards his daily thought they promised Mr. K. they would carry half (I was in Sassoun at the time) is now thinking of accepting Em's request to go there for the winter. May the Lord lay in some special light on these questions.

Very sincerely Yours

R. M. C.

Bitlis Nov. 10, 1896.

Filed Dec. 10,

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Rec'd Dec. 12 A.B.C.F.M.

Bitlis, Nov. 14th. 1896

Messrs. Knapp & Peet,

Dear Sirs:-

The case of orphans & widows has been arresting much attention on the part of such as are seeking to relieve the intense suffering in Turkey at the present time, and there can hardly be a more deserving subject, or branch of humanity so much in need of sympathy.

Though it is very difficult, if not impossible, to collect accurate statistics on any such matter, yet it is safe to say that there are at least one thousand of this unfortunate class in Bitlis city alone most of whom were left young orphans on that black Friday, Oct. 25th. 1895; while there is probably an equal number of such destitute ones in other parts of the vilayet, with, perhaps, one half as many widows.

Naturally the keenest sympathy of us all engaged in this relief, is aroused as we see these poor, so neglected wanderers crowding our streets. One or two examples must suffice. Only yesterday a lonely woman found her way to us; though a native of this place she came as an exile from Agants a few days since, where her husband was killed, and her boy together with other children & women were thrust into a grain-pit, dirt thrown upon them and it trodden down with human(?) feet where wails, groans & weaker gasps erelong end this fiendish carnival over human life!

Here stands the heart-broken wife and mother but left in the street,- no friends, no where to lay her head & that too, when from her condition she should for these few months at least have more rest & quiet. In utter discouragement & bewilderment she was planning to ~~to~~ go to she knew not where!

Here is a little girl of some seven summers, having neither father or mother. She has three young brothers, one of whom has gone to Van in hopes of gaining some sort of living, while the other two must needs be absent from the old shell of a house all day. What is to be done with little Azniv but to lock her into the room with no comfort or amusement but a bit of dry bread for lunch. Here she waits the long-live day for her brothers!

We have now taken the poor girl from that prison life into our school as a boarder, though we have no funds for such. Who will help us? If Van could have its £150 & Harpout £275 why not some for Bitlis?

Still another woman from Agant, instead of going to Van where money is so flush in the relief, comes here-having formerly been a native of this city. Her husband saved his skin by transfer of faith, nominally at least, while she made her escape on this way. And yet so disheartened is she at finding what few friends she had left here either unable to help her or indisposed to do so she elects to go back & cast in her & the lot of her children in with that of her husband before he has been forced to tak himself another wife!

Thus it is our sympathies are all the time taxed beyond endurance the scenes of suffering we behold on every hand, only a small fraction of which we are able to alleviate. We are pursued through all the day by the hungry, almost naked ones, while at nigt we are haunted by such vision!

While then we are standing under such trying burden we trust those of you in closer touch with the outside world will use every influence to that funds come to the relief of poor humanity & most of all for widows & orphans.

Yours very sincerely,

R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole
Bitlis, Turkey
Jan 11, '96

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-14-96
Ans'd 18

Rev. W. S. Rhodes
medicine from
James Lance &
Lance Brothers
Barton & H.
should
remember
you due
and expect
you to be
of service. Mrs. Cole.
Bout notiate
to tell me on
this point x
write
the minister

Dear Dr. Barton;

I am afraid that between us two we do not get off weekly budgets to you though I believe Mr. B. wrote you last week while I sent something to Dr. Smith in acknowledgement of his kind letter to me. I can do no more this week than to report ourselves in usual health and things about as usually quiet while at the same time I will put in our weekly circular and a copy of my diary of events for our Pittis Circle that you may be interested in. After reading them I should be obliged if you would mail them as soon as may be to Mrs. R. M. Cole, Hudson Cottage, Oberlin, Ohio, as they are copies intended for her. Most that we write of which work now goes to Mr. Peet's hands. The case of orphans and widows is prominent now, and we do hope some help for them most of all may be sent to R. as well as to other places. We have more than 2000 poor, neglected orphans in plundered & desolated regions about Tiflis of them being in this city & made so from the late massacre. Heaven pity poor humanity in the land.

Hastily &c R. M. Cole.

R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Nov. 18, 96

J. L. B.
Rec'd 1-18-97
Ans'd

436

Dublin Dec 7. 1896

The Executive Council has received a letter announcing the death of his mother in Ireland. It has been five years since he saw her, and owing to the wet season Mr Parnell from Boston he hoped to go home on a visit, as the six years' two victories fight in Dublin, has nearly ended. It is doubtful that many of his letters do not arrive. He has had the bitterness of seeing since, such conference thunders and lightnings to determine him to do this - anything, everything but to abandon the work he has undertaken. Efforts for his mission have not always been taken from children up to young ladies for years. He a man with the keen sense of honor to be sent out. Now a poor man, forced to leave the Dublin Council, Dublin Council appealing to the Irish people "Stick to Parnell to the end, seven years for Ireland!" See Opposition Communication published in the Herald today, the article 10 - Christians here are being seriously impressed in contribution to charity. And to offer to aid Irish Catholics, Protestants, Orangemen, Catholics, Protestants, Orangemen, Catholics, Protestants, Orangemen,

Mosul
Bitlis, Dec. 9, 95

We have most pitiful cases coming in upon us for relief from the villages more especially - poor women and children with barefeet and limbs, walking through snow and ice. ~~A half dozen families of such~~ desolated refugees reached us yesterday from beyond Shirzan three days distant, and among them one whose father and mother as members of our church died of grief to the death for all the hope was taken from them. Others on every hand press upon us. We are cheered by Mr. Peet's remittal of £300 more for relief - but of course we repeat it, let the cry from Sassoun & elsewhere is so loud that we are fearing we shall not be able to help people lest they starve since their meager crop of wills has all destroyed. Meanwhile Hrikore is back at his post in Khoultig, at which village is not a little to encourage in the missionary work. He has 60 scholars in school and needs an assistant badly, but funds are short. By adjusting departments on this side of the work we have so reduced heavy debts that we think of sending out half allowance to some helper. Our schools are all shooting up over Mosul way. Evangelist Hagop turning two of his boys to work, carry or no salary. - All quiet as usual and we are in usual health. R. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd 1-18-97
Ans'd

Please send Mrs. Beale the enclosures.

Bitlis, Dec. 14, 1896

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

Permit me to thank you for your kind communications of Oct 20th and the 7th ult. at hand by yesterday's post.

Yes, it would indeed have been a pleasure to be at your Toledo meeting. Of course the next thing to being there would be to read about it, which there is little hope we can do, as no such papers reach us. Our Miss Mary Ely was there but had not two sentences in her letters as to it unfortunately. Probably she was busy and thought we should have the local paper. It was kind in the meeting to draw up the Resolutions you enclosed. I passed them to our Eng. Consul, who happened in at the time, and said "such only are our medals for service." We hope the action of the meeting may have some effect on the great question so vital to humanity in this land.

Yes, we had heard and read in the Aved paper of good Dr. Wheeler's entering into rest. A mighty man and valiant in mission principles, has fallen, but his works do follow him.

Referring to yours of 7th would say that Mr. Baird's trouble was a bruised knee from a fall on my old horse - by the way, the very one you likely have seen Miss Bush ride in Harpoot, she having bought him of Mr. Gates -

He, Mr. B., is all right now and begins to think of spreading his wings for the home-flight, going out via the southern route, possibly visiting Mr. Drury, an old school mate. We are very glad to have the appropriations in hand and to know there is even a little advance on last year, so we may now venture on more outlay for the missionary work proper. As the station accts were below we felt obliged to try and square off debts somewhere or we could have kept on more of a work the past year.

It is also very timely if we may receive anything to help out on poor orphans. Trusting some such might come to hand we have let a few into the Girls sch. and are helping on tuition of others in boys' schools. We must count on you at least to do the generous thing by poor Bittis in all these lines, for you know how this has from the first been a storm center, and continues to try us on many accts. Our depleted, scattered forces have found little time to write up their case so as to draw any help in special lines, Cole's time having been largely absorbed for three going on two years now in relief at Sassoun and here in Bittis.

So far as my summons goes it has been dropped, so far as appears on the surface now, but who can look into the future for anything in this land? By God's help we try to meet each days demands as they come along.

We are in usual health. Hastily, &c. R. M. Cole

Rev. A. H. Cole
Bitlis, Dec. 14, 97.

J. L. B.
Rec'd. 1-25-97
Ans'd.

Bitlis, Dec 23. 1896

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Though there is no letter made up, nor circular save my diary for members of our Bitlis Circle especially, yet from that you will learn quite as fully of the situation as by the more general circular. I fear not a few of our letters may be lost; we had nothing from Consph last time, and so much belated is the Post that we ought to have three weeks' all together if the thing were to catch up ever. It is said we may look for the Post to morrow, but we learn not to expect anything of the sort till it comes. We are in usual health and much run upon in the relief. A late tel. to the Consul from their Embassy announces a remittal of £2500 more relief. In view of the fact that I may be left alone again in Erz. and also that this seems to be Eng. money, and also the consideration that I have been severely taxed in administering Eng. funds in Sassoun & here, for these going on two years I am thinking of throwing the responsibility for the distribution of the last remittal over upon the Consul & his dragoman who assisted me at the Moush depot for Sassoun

and is very efficient. The Consul himself has had no experience whatever in such work and has not much practicability anyway though is literary; but I begin to feel I cant stand under such burdens much longer without breaking down altogether.

Mr. Baird on seeing the situation is trying to prevail upon Mr. Dewey (an old schoolmate) to come up or send one from there to help out when he leaves, but it may be doubtful if one can come. The truth is our Mission forces generally are much depleted - the burdens resting on men of advanced years while the young men to quite an extent are outside from one cause or another. We are much in the darkness on what is to be the future, and most likely the same is yet true for the outside world too, so far as pertains to matters in T. Heaven have mercy on poor humanity!

You will kindly pass on enclosures to Mrs. Cole when they are no longer needed on your desk, as I have not the facility of turning off many copies save for the Simplex I got out from N.Y. that I dont trouble to use for the Diary.

In much haste &c

R. M. Cole

Bittis, Dec. 23, '96

Private. 439

Dear Dr. Barton;

Confidentially I might explain what I hinted at in the other note, viz: that donors should know how their funds go. It may be all right, but caution is well. He who has been acting preacher for Bitlis for a year wholly at expense of Board (Mr G. P. K. and the people having invited him in from Boulanouk region & applying the places only help of B. people, while I was in Sassoun) has a bro. in N.Y., who found his way on then from Talvorig. He made something of a sensation in Eng. even coming before the G. O. M. in company with others of his unfortunate people. He went over to N.Y. about the time F. Greene was over to Eng. and seems to gather money then. He has sent to his bro. Khaching, the preacher, whom you know well on Lake Van the last year, and wrote suggesting that Kh. bring in his relatives from Sassoun to care for (!) which goes to show he did not intend it all for Kh., but this latter was on hand to draw it all of course and, moreover, was desirous of more solid here than he had in the village. Mr. K. had held out hope he might have, he says. Of course I would not judge such persons too severely and such blunt forwarding of money to friends may be all right. Another has rec'd money from a lecturer in Fresno and proposes to use it at once in going on to his uncle there which who knows who is to care for his family now. I refer to these matters, thinking you might like

to know. Without using names you could be
Mr. Green in N.Y. suggest need of caution to
just whether the money sent is distributed as
first intention. – this and no more. I
wonder they want to get their friends away. R. M.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-2-97
Ans'd

Siberia

Perhaps strain and overwork in which Mr. Cole has been engaged in for the last two years in connection with the Relief work — finds him rather down in health to a great degree — necessitating a long rest & change of diet.

Could you on that his mission with the approval of the D. C. grant him permission to return to the states during the coming Spring? Trusting that health and strength may soon be his & that the Lord of Harvest may yet have him work in the vineyard

Yours

Respy. Jan 9th 1897

Miss

Haller

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-23-97
Ans'd

441

Bitlis, 15 Jan. 97.

Dear Friends:

Mr. Cole's health has improved steadily
the week. He has not taken up any work yet and ought
not to for a while yet. Dr. Shaw's wives stay with us
gave us much help. They left us for Mardin today. He
expects that Mr. Cole's sister will be with us 15th.
I am expected to remain here till then and to leave with
them. This is an unfortunate delay for me perhaps
but I still have no reason to believe that they intend to keep me here
after that time. I shall be tempted to leave all the sooner.

Yesterday we heard of Sokhi's wonderful escape. That has
been chartered in the Boys' school for more than a year and
but so we now have more room.

Yesterday the Friday lunatic fear of massacre seized several people. Some foolish "they say" started it. When will this senseless terror end? — Rumor says that the first [illegible] was stopped in Hainia from lack of funds to pay the contractor. Men started hitherward and may be here [illegible] morrow. Practically we have a fortnight from [illegible] weekly one. Weather is cool and bright. [illegible] are beginning to press in for relief. I have not seen [illegible] faces yet that bore signs of great suffering from hunger. How much of their statements as to need one can safely believe it would be hard to say. They are certainly very per-sistent. The poor not only write down but go from each individual but want to see [illegible] out. W.B.

villages

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-23-97
Ans'd 3-6

Bitlis. Jan. 18. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

As I remember it if you were to refer to my last leaflet sent you it was sort of prophetic of what was to take place in my case. I was trying to keep about on duty when some friends were saying to me "you look ill." I didn't give up till Dec. 23/96 after passing most of the day in distribution to the poor destitute ones. Christmas the Eng. Consul, who occupies Mrs. K's house and whose roof I have connected with ours by means of a new staircase, invited us over to dinner. Of course I was not in condition to eat much. The next day and all the first part of my sickness my vitality was low, so I felt like entering the stove; I was sitting by it when I fainted, but very fortunately put my head back into my rocking chair instead of falling forward upon the stove. From this I grew so much worse Mr. Baird wired Dr. Thom up who had me in charge for five days fixing me up well with medicine, when he returned. He pronounced my attack influenza and found me so run down he at once books me for America to go in for repairs, as soon in the spring as

it would be prudent for me to travel. We kindly drew up the usual vote to send around the mission, enclosed is a copy of the same. It was very fortunate Mr. B. was with me or if I had been alone I should probably have gone down altogether. I have had a very hard time in Sassoun and here for then two years past - carrying the burdens of two men - Mr. K. keeping so housebound from danger as he was made to feel that he could help little. I am broken down but trust to pick up rapidly. But now my great concern is what is to be done for such an important station as Bitlis with its 10-15 outstations. It should not be left open for a day. Dr. Thom Mr. B. and myself have written pleading that they give us Mr. Allen at once and they take Mr. K. who probably could never return here with prudence considering bitter feeling against him in Gov^t. and among the fanatics of this region. Seems to us this would be a good arrangement. There is a bit of feeling against Mr. A. I judge at C. and the change would help him. I hope you will bring some pressure to bear in this direction. Of course A.B.C.F.M. could spare Mr. Brown while Mr. Ellis is bound to go home & marry I suppose this year & therefore could not (come!) I hope you will indorse this vote by return Post when it may reach me on eve of our setting out. Do please arrange something decisive for B. so it be not left open. My hand is too weak and trembly to write much. Hastily, &c

R. M. Cole

Sivas, Jan 18, 97

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3 — 2 — 97
Ans'd 8

443

Bitlis, Jan. 23. 1897

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Many thanks for your three letters of dates Nov. 25th, Dec. 8th and 18th together with appropriations for '97 clippings on cause of orphans and leaflet entitled "Support the missionaries" all of which came to hand this very last post that only reached us 20 days after the previous one, though we are said to have weekly posts at Bitlis.

I think well of the view you & others in the clippings take of the orphan question as note in yours of Nov. 25th and I am happy to say from different sources we have enough in hand so we are giving our thoughts to calling out from the well on to 200 here and in the village 75-100 for the present.

As to yours of the 8th ult. referring to information and remittances, I hope I didn't convey the idea I was sensitive because N.P. was receiving liberally and Bitlis not so much so. I am very glad to have other places blessed and would only say "Bitlis too"!

But what you say is only too true. You have not had information enough about the mission work proper, though you have known full well how we have been situated the past

P.S. I should say that some half of our Sabs are spent in Sunday School and two half days in full. In this way we may use up 4 hours out of club.

two years. I have been almost wholly absorbed in relief work in Sassoun and here, as I have before hinted, Mr. K. being shut into his house till departed. I have from force of circumstances attempted to carry so much of course it has been very imperfect and I have so broken down Dr. Thom rules me off for a time of rest. It is a month to-day since I was taken down of this serious influenza and I have not been out doors yet though hope to to-morrow if it is sunny.

Funds for our gen. relief will not admit of much more distribution which we turn over to the Consul and his dragoman next week. Funds have been sent him from his Embassy and I urged him to assume the responsibility of that since I must be spared this heavy work at least so I might plan for the poor orphans. We shall keep on our industrial for two or three weeks yet. I am happy to say that the letter I sent Mr. Peet and which was cabled you influenced Mrs. Harris late at Hpt, so she writes me from Constpl that she is sending £ 250, which I trust she will answer me is for orphans, though she does not say so in this. Dr. Herrick writes me this post their Com^ee there have voted us £ 400 for this object. Hence we must

now plan with vigor for this so important branch.
But here I am running on in relief again when I had in mind to refer to missionary work.
Through Mr. B's help who felt quite as strongly as I that this station must be brought out of debt we have accomplished, and only two graduates of our High Sch. (only one of whom was teacher) left for the northern country, but now long to get back it seems.
Our work is running since Jan. 1st about in usual form save two villages near did not permit the helpers to hold on, one of them being preacher here in B. for a year.
We have three schools for boys taught by males in three wards of this city with an aggregate of about 100 pupils. As we have no higher class we shall not get up a graduate from H.P. this year.
Girls Sch. is going with usual success, and the orphans will be quartered so far as possible in our two Sch. buildings & be connected with the Sch.
In our large village Tshoultig, where your old pupil Bn Wilkere is preacher, he has 70 scholars and has an assistant that we hope Tuition will pay for. — Our Mounsh may all schools are running with rather more than usual success. I wrote you how our evangelist there had turned in two of his sons-Salary or not.

Though he has just buried his wife and is lonely with two rather small children he sends up the other son to help his elder bro. up in Navadoik where the school was crowded with scholars. And so in most parts of our field it is the set time to favor Zion in all respects, if but conditions would favor. Let us pray and wait expecting that the Lord is to visit us at a near day. Again I must ask what are we to do for Bitlis if I must go off for time of rest? If some one does not come to take my place now that this orphan branch is to be developed it looks much as though I should stand to my post even though in the end I were to drop down by Mr. K. Sen. who rest from his labors in the Church yard hard by and in front of my window as I write. I am writing Van that if they could help out till Nov. I would hope to be well enough to return if they could not stay longer. Excuse this very hasty letter written with a trembly hand, as I am yet very weak and not fit to do much.

Mrs. C. has been carrying through two of the children in measles or she might have reported herself to you. She was just going to another city to address a missionary meeting. Cordially R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Jan. 23, 97

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-24-97
Ans'd 30

Bitlis, Feb. 13. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Mr. Baird wrote you, if not by last Post by the previous one, and you should have a word from us, these time, every week's Post. We dwell in safety and since the amnesty letting out the political prisoners the people seem to feel more assurance on the situation.

I am getting back my health and strength quite rapidly; so that if the volunteer to take my place is not forth coming I shall hold on alone again to carry as long as I can, and when I can not run any longer I will stop. But really I have hope it would not be so serious for me as Dr. Thom feared, and so I may be pardoned for not obeying his order. It is pretty evident from Dr. Raynold's letter there is not much hope from Van, as Mr. Allen was off for Persia on hart of the Consul to purchase cattle for the poor, (albeit it seems to us, the Consuls & higher ones letter assure us more ere we invest in open - the most attractive thing for Kouds) and the plan is for him to delay till he could take a-long the families to Van if it be prudent for them to come on in the spring.

If Van has to be counted out there only remains Apt since Mardin language is against them and Cam only has one man. Dr. Barnum writes that Mr. Ellis is inexperienced and would hardly be the one to send up here alone & Mr. Browne is needed there, &c. In view of present prospects I lay no plans but to stay right on, trusting God will sustain me still. We are pushing as hard as we can to get together the orphans, but as we had not money in hand to begin till snows were upon us, and here mid-winter, it is not easy to hurry matters, as I told Dr. Dunning of Cong list the last Post but one. I see from Dr. B's circular just at hand they are only taking such at Apt as have neither father or mother. but we are not limiting it thus but such as have no father - giving quite a large place to orphans from the late events.

Almost no papers reach us. We have been fortunate enough to get our Boards Anl Report for '96 which we read with rare interest of course, especially what you have to say of the outlook in Japan. None in America can realize how hungry we are for such daily literature as knocks about on the front steps of your Boston houses as you make your way to your office. Excuse haste. As ever R. M. Cole

Ellis, Feb. 13, '97

56
12
72
3
432
ans. Feb 26/97

445

4 Akron St. - Boston Mass
Feb 9th 1897

My dear Mr Cole -
Mrs Ames the President - of our Womens Alliance has already forwarded you through Brown Bros - Twenty four dollars ($24.00) for January and Feb of this year. And we - Members of the Womans Alliance of "The Church of the Disciples" Boston pledge ourselves to send you twelve dollar a month for three years (from Jan 1st 1897) to found an Orphanage - and ask that it be named "The Church of the Disciples Orphanage" and that - as their representative in this matter be put in direct communication with the care taker of the Home -

you have our sympath
in this great work
Yours truly

Charlotte E. Cooper
4 Akron St
Boston
Mass. U. S. A

Mrs Ellen Richards Swallow
Home ecl. report on Architecture
Dr. Dunning has engaged Miss
Bangs in my place. Miss
Reynolds is home and therefore
Miss [illegible] assuming office, the
[illegible] will be all copy for process.
Please not take a separate form
those reports for mere therefore
the mss. I find it necessary to
remove not unless they are
[illegible]. Mr Fair really
Yours re Pres. Orc

J. L. B.
Rec'd Mar 20-97
Ans'd 27

446

Bitlis, March 6th 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

It has been a few weeks since I wrote you, but last week Mr. Baird wrote you. It has been sometime since we had anything from the Rooms, nothing having reached us by way of local paper as to the meeting at Toledo, though the Ann. Report for '96 came. We shall see how long it is to be our fate to be so shut in from periodical information as to the outside world. We have a pleasant Eng. Consul here living in Mrs. Knapp's house just adjoining ours, and have his papers to read. Considering how things look about Crete and the appearance of things at the Capital the future is not assuring. You heard long since of the crushing news as to Mr. Ellis. He had telegraphed me if there was no other way he could come to take my place at B'. I returned thanks & at same time wired him to come on at once feeling it would be well for him to be here a couple of weeks before we left. Judge of the shock it was to us (& especially me less able to meet such now) when in daily expectation of his telegram saying he had started, to have Dr. Barnum's tel. put into my hands, as I was presiding at a Com^ee meeting, reading "Mr Ellis died this morning"! The tears went coursing down my cheeks in spite of me! A vote has gone round for Mr. Allen to come here

but considering how hard Dr. R. takes such a move, and feels he should break down if left alone while, as he puts it, Mr. A. has "great aversion" to coming to Bittis - "strong aversion" I think is the exact words, I have just written the doctor that so far as I am concerned personally I absolve Van from helping out Bittis. I have thought, however, and have just suggested the following to Harpoot. How much is Mr. Knapp's case going to amt. to? If he waits for a new minister to get the reins in hand it will take a six months, while all political prisoners have been pardoned out; and if not of this class they sought to estimate him. Would it not be better rather than leave matters as they are to have him come right on at once to Hpt to fill Mr. Browne's place at least till Autumn, so the latter could hasten on to see this tired bro. off for a time of rest; otherwise I have no plan but to hold on to my post as long as I can "wag". With 85 of "God's little ones" - orphans - in our schools here with almost as many more being arranged for in due time in the wards' schs., with two branches of the orphanage to be formed in Khoultig village and Mousle city, at the latter of which I hope to get in some from Sassoun, you can see there is little chance for me to leave if some responsible person is not forthcoming to take my place. Mr. Baird hopes to leave for home via Scanderoun in ten days - going sooner than planned so as to reach their Mission meeting. Hastily &c

R. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd. 4-29-97
Ans'd. 5-5

Bitlis, March 20. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

My last to you seems dated the 6th inst. while your last to me was Dec. 18th and at hand here about two months ago! I fear some letters from the Rooms are failing to reach me. Mrs. Cole sent on yours to her in reply to hers on hearing that I had been ill.

I have gathered up in health pretty well considering circumstances, and it would seem as though Providence wished me to hold on, or He would so arrange it that some one come to help. Dr. Raynolds writes twice about Mr. Allen's having "strong aversion" to coming to Bitlis," and thinks he, too, shall break down if left alone. This quite true he too, is carrying heavy burdens. We have sent him on in the past 160 bales of cotton for his industrial hall of relief, and just now comes his tel. saying he wants us to purchase & send 100 more. I have passed to the Consul who manages per his dragoman (Hagop - formerly our Moush preacher) and other natives to carry Genl relief - having copied our methods of the spinning & weaving industrial. Some of our weavers have made the checked

goods for the dresses of our over 90 girl orphans already gathered in the Girls' School building; while others have made what constitutes shalwars (when colored blue) for our over 30 orphan boys. There are thrilling tales connected with these orphans if it were prudent now to relate them. Only a few days since three were shouldered & brought from some two days South and were in a most pitiable condition - almost naked and were terribly sallow looking and haggard from the gnawings of hunger. Both their father and mother had gone as martyrs to the faith. The latter was first shot at - the ball passing through both knees, following which the mangling, cruel knife did the rest when the infant, now of three years or more, fell from her arms. Two grown up daughters, attractive looking, were carried off by the "wilds", as also an older son's wife. One of said "wilds" thought enough of his captured girl to lead him to plan their liberation, when he saw they might be killed lest the older son turn x^n again. Said "wild" secretly brought them within 5 miles of Kotli where he returned to his lair where the poor sister daughter is held for his prey!

Meanwhile see the two little boys and the sister of some 6 years as they are brought in before us almost naked. The tiny little boy looked down to the rug and cried out as though he thought it would burn his feet

Neither he nor his sister just old, could speak anything save the language of the "wilds" among whom they have been so long. The older boy of some 8 years can speak very imperfect Armenian. Both he and his sister are in the schs here now while we have given over little Avdo to be cared for by a kind, though poor woman he seems to take to much.

We are thinking we may have to begin again our industrial for the sake of mothers some of whom orphan children we may admit to sch. here or in the wards. In this way they could make a living without begging from door to door.

Our schools are filling up with scholars just as fast as assurance of safety may be realized, and we are taking up all the teachers available, not a few extra ones being called for in the orphanage branch.

Mr. Baird left me Monday the 15th inst. and should be reaching Diarbekir now. He was much comfort and help to me in many ways, and I only wish he he might have staid longer, but it hardly seemed right to urge him after then 8 mos. here, and when he wished to reach his Mission meeting, following which he hopes to go on with what remains of his family at Monastir to see native land he has not looked in on for more than 12 years. Very sincerely R. M. Cole.

If not needed would you pass over to Dr. Barton & Co. of your building thus, &c.

Bitlis, March 26. 1897

My dear Friends;-

Perhaps it is time I were sending our words again from our numerous family of God's "little ones". Many friends kindly send big their little ones. Many friends kindly send big their little ones after the orphan cause and great relief, and asking after the orphan cause and great relief, and I gladly entertain them all by special mission as far as my time and strength will permit, alone as I am. Sometimes I send on enclosures, as time to our tin cross, but am not able to do so to all. Tin cross, but am not able to do so to all. Most touching incidents enough to crow pages, might be brought in here respecting what the little ones have been through before they reach our hands, but it would be a sad rehearsal, & hardly prudent these times when letters are tampered with more or less.

Would that a good photographer were at hand to turn his camera on our numerous family, or at least some representation ones in it.

We already have 100 orphan boarders here within our two school buildings, clothed and in their right mind; while nearly as many more are numbered as day pupils here and in connection with the ward schools. To this latter class we have been dealing ration allowance for 15 days at the rate of 15 pa. (60 cents) apiece for the time. As soon as we can we are to help them to some clothing tin some cases a little bedding material, so they may

Dublin, Monday 26.1.1874

My dear Grandmamma:-

Mamma says it is time I wrote another one to you to tell you how we are getting on. Yesterday we had a little holiday because it was "little cross". Mamma read aloud to us the life of Lord Nelson, and afterwards we played games. We have a little dog called Bob. He is very fond of us. We have two cats, one black and white and the other grey. Mamma intends having a little boy to live with us. We have a little garden of our own. We have a little lodging in Dublin. We have two rooms. We have a good photographer here and it is very fine weather. We are very comfortable, so that I hope you will be quite well. I am your affectionate grandchild.

Mamma intends having some lessons. It costs 15 pence (10 cents) apiece. We are so glad that we are to keep them because we like coming to Dublin and have a little lodging. Mamma is, we think very

If not already found, you have seen Mr. Porter's letter to your Publishing Firm, &c.

not feel that only those right about us are cared for.
As snows give place to open roads as waifs can
reach us all those with mothers, and citizens generally,
will have to give place, so we shall have right under
our eye only the so unfortunate waifs — the few with
mothers that have been received being relegated to the outsch.
Cine in their so-called homes, but attend sch. by day.
One incident among rather recent arrivals must suff-
ice. Deadly deed took place late in '95 in a village
the south west of us. The father and mother sent a sac-
rifice for their faith. The latter, after bearing a bullet shot
through both her knees is mangled to the death with axe, upon
hour which the babe, Moses, falls from her arms, &
rescued. His two sisters elder, and of fair mien,
as also the older brother's young wife, are carried off
a worse than slavery. But when it began to be
ored that the older bro. who had dissembled in his
with would resort to his former status, plans were on
ot for final disposition of him also. Who should be
s, his two young bros. and little sister liberator but one
the Hounds that had one of the older sisters for his prey!
e secretly deported the four — he and the older brother
ouldering the other three for some two days, till they
ne within six miles of Joplin, when the "wild", Indian like in
isposition, had condoned the qualms of conscience, for
rance, he had for the older sister, he returns to his lair & prey!

[illegible] feel that only those rights absolutely are our own, [illegible] ourselves, [illegible] to defend against encroachment [illegible] all those with which we sympathize, are entirely peculiar, [illegible] have to defend themselves, so we should have regard [illegible] our own rights, so we should respect those of others. [illegible] Those rights which are our own, [illegible] are those which we have received from our ancestors, [illegible] our own [illegible] and which we have received from our ancestors, [illegible] our own [illegible] and which we have received from our ancestors. [illegible] Generally speaking, those rights are those which we have received from our ancestors. [illegible] Those rights and privileges which we have received from our ancestors, [illegible] our own [illegible] and which we have received from our ancestors, [illegible] our own [illegible] and which we have received from our ancestors. [illegible] Those rights and privileges

"The poor little creatures were so hungry, naked & cold as well as benumbed from the long shoulding that here hardly alive when put down before me. Bobo Nido looked down at the rug & cried out as though he thought it would burn his feet sure! What a transition from their former life, living among the "wilds" where they had almost lost their language.

"Yet should we see how much of sunshine has entered all of these young lives in such a short time. Watch them as they shuffle off their dirty, and ragged old rags, and don the neat, though inexpensive (and almost wholly made from our relief & industrial) habiliments of civilization. See the little fellows, together, strutting about around with one hand in the new coat pocket while, with other he very [illegible] proudly draws across his mouth the to them rare article of a clean little handkerchief!

"At chapel they are very decorous, sitting near me. Their little eyes watch to see if I approve of their behaviour. One dear little fellow lost the preacher for the moment in admiration of his new fez as he held it up before him so innocently!

"This must be my hasty pen-picture of these lambs of a so lately decimated flock.

"They are all well, so happy and appreciative of all we do for them, rushing up to kiss my hands as I go among them, prone with gratitude and respect."

Most respectfully,

R. M. Cole, missionary.

L. B. 5-17-97 26

449

Bitlis, Apr. 10. 1897

Dear Dr. Barton:

As I get nothing from the Rooms I feel no certainty that anything I send reaches there; so I have little enthusiasm in writing till I hear.

I have not received the Board Almanac, nor any paper as to the ann. meeting. I send this week a sort of News-note, as also that of last week, if it might have any interest. I am in fair health and spirits, considering. and "clinging to the roof".

After nearly two weeks had our Fast to-day.

Hastily but cordially

R. M. Cole

Another Sad Catastrophe

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-27-97
Ans'd 27

Bitlis, April 24, 1897

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

After so long a cessation of your letters this week two - dated respectively Mch 4th & 16th - came to hand - one by Post from Erzrum way while the other assumed to have come from the South whence we have a regular mail late years, but which more likely was delayed in our P.O. for special reasons. As you make no reference to my illness, &c, it is quite clear you have written not a few that have not reached me at all. Letters are tampered with we know. A few times you send clippings which may have arrested special attention of a certain class.

Thanks for efforts put forth to find some one to take my place. Of course if Mr. K. can get free some of his missionaries to come here well and good; but as he wrote me recently he has in mind to hold on in Berlin till fall, feeling it would not be wise for him to come into the interior, and Mr. Peet seems to share this view. It would seem as political prisoners are pardoned out there should be no more thought of him anywhere but in B. where the same old officials are that hated him so. Of course if his case is to be seen through that is quite another thing; but little can hoped I fear after such delay.

I hardly feel the change of my going to some other station and its man coming here would be worth much to me as we should both work at disadvantage. Nor is this consul, as are they gen'l, suitable to do much for care of an orphanage. Their way usually is to pass it right over to native agents possibly on high salaries. He and his dragoman experienced with me in Sassoun relief are carrying gen'l relief for the most part in consultation with me, as the consul is not very practical in such things — nearly the whole of his part being left to the natives, done as he refers them to me.

As for Mr. Berghoiz I have a very pleasant impression of the man from all I have heard of him, but what can he do when his exequatur is not yet in hand? What use in the overtaxed fellows writing to him to have it pigeonholed at Washington! I try to write him occasionally; did so a few weeks ago as to American interests in Moush, where some two years ago I purchased in my name a bit of garden adjacent to the Prot. sch. & so-called chapel premises, so as to build a little stable & kitchen below with two small rooms above; but on setting to building Gov't stopped it. Time and again the Eng. consul has pushed the question with these local Gov'ts but to no account thus far.

Thanks to the Com^ee for giving me leave of absence

but doubt let them blame me for holding on just the same considering the special demand at the present time. I know not what panic might not seize the people if I were to go and leave the place open - more especially as the Consul leaves in some two weeks, and it may be his successor will decide to live in Mousul.

In Yours of 16th March you refer again to the work, Orphanage, &c, that I should not expose my health, &c, and say "that the Lord does not put on me service & burdens which I cannot carry". It is incidental to the situation that I am left under these burdens and is it not better that I do what I can than that they should come flat to the ground? I know full well I cant do so much well, but feel it is God's will for me to carry it as well as I can till some relief comes. Surrender is not what I am accustomed to pronounce over much. Of course one situated as I am can hardly know just how long he can hold out, though a good doctor at hand could see it better. Seems true about the best thing I can hit upon at the present is for Dr. Thom to come up. He has as much Turkish about as Mr. Baird had and has shown a sort of willingness. That circle now has no children & is small, while for medical practice he would have plenty of it here if he had time for it.

It might hold on awhile with him, then be gone. He and his wife could move right in here, and they have no children to transfer here to be more expense. I have written to Martin about it & think of starting about a week at once. - I dont think much of getting Mr. Edward Allen out for the time at such expense, as Dr. Raynolds has suggested. He hardly thinks his associate Herbert Allen could carry on Battis and if he could not why should the other be better, more especially as he must have lost most of his language after so long a time. He also hinted at Mr. Richardson, but if he were to come it should be as a permanency, but why should he be rooted up from his own pastorate in Mich. so soon! Mr. Baird seemed to feel very strongly Mr. R. had been much abused by E. G. that he said vetoed your desire to have him return to it. - I always felt Mr. R. might have done good work at Apl but was not a man to be left alone or with such a one as Mr. Macallum, but is an earnest, well-meaning bro. Major Williams my guest two days feels poor Dr. Raynolds cant hold out much longer under his burdens, and by this last Post Mr. Chambers writes as though the condition of his wifes health might call him away from Em! Truly what is E. G. coming to!

I am in fair health & hope. Hastily, &c R. M. Cole

Mr. Barton: Butte May 15/97

Failed to get off Station Report this week.
am sending a letter for Miss Ely I put in
B. Notes that may have interest for
the prospect is so poor for finding
to take any place and since now
could do so little for two years I
seriously thinking of telegraphing Joe
Stalk, Boston, Swift Richardson;
I can hold on so long, and if

ture is not very great change
will have to go elsewhere nearly
viatives, Consuls & missionaries fe
carry as I am fr him. B. was a
when Richardson's case was up, be
has a working language & if he
right off leaving his family to c
later if he stays on permanent
might be here in less than two
from now, after which I could g
Excuse a wee note - all this letters
will carry. Will write next tim
don't know when the Ships are. Hastily, K

Sol. at this last Station. Mr. Baird on his way to Kinistino. Mr. Corn. & I may visit the Crees of the Carlton district day after tomorrow. Leaving Mr. Mclas. & Mr. Mouat in charge.

Dear Dr. Barton, We are glad to give you a little change now & then. Relief may be expected this fall & can be had in the person of Mr. Baird, who is an orphan & a Presbyterian minister, and certainly worth your hearing.

Yours of Feb. 12th (my birth day, by the way) as well as of Apr. 27th only reached me by this last Post — the former having been traveling about via Monastir and forgotten there as Mr. Baird admits in his letter to me. The one of last date, however, made good time enough to atone somewhat for delay of the other.

Thanks for your kind sympathy expressed in the former as to my health, and urgency that I leave the Station alone if need be after such arduous duties so long.

Glad also to learn of prospects of such good civilians to have charge of American interests at Constpl & Aptl.

Your second, however, is what gives me joy in that a Mr. Ashdown is looked for this place. Enclosed is my note of welcome to the brother, which you will kindly forward to his address that I know not. As I have written him, unless you still send on Mr. Richardson, as per my plea by tel. confirmed by last letter, I dont see how I can get away for some time at least, as indeed your own letter implies. However, I am most grateful to the Prud Comte & you all, and the young Bro. for listening to this call to come over to help an overburdened one.

Yours as ever
R. Nr. Cole

With eyes & ears & hands full since Feb. 27th

As I have before written you Mr. Knapp feels he should not come anywhere into the interior till his case is properly seen through & Mr. Peet shares the (view).
Yes, nominally the Consul is carrying the relief through his agents, but he has had no experience; so I have to come in for no little consultation and responsibility. Such officials are not in sympathy & touch with the common people and the poor creatures feel they must have a word with their Badrelly in any case.
As for the orphanage work and especially proper disposition of the Esaery Fund (for Prots. only too apt to be jealous anyway) it seems to me next to impossible to turn it over to the Consul or a native Com^ee. Here are the accts, money transactions, and safe whose combination should not be communicated to others than a missionary.
But I have gone over these matters in the past and need not repeat. With an eye on such a promising young Bro. at no distant day even if Mr. Richardson doesn't come, I shall try to keep my head above water. Possibly Miss Mary Ely may insist on taking the risk and come along with Mr. A. to write her Sch. & the Orphanage work where she could be of minimum help. Mrs. Cole, who - in her doing of Minnesota appointments - met both the sisters, thinks they look delicate. I fear the elder sister is not equal to meeting the nervous strain incident to environments here.
Sent you a letter in nature of Station report last week. Spent

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-8-97
Ans'd 13

Bitlis, via Cons'ple & Tred. June 8/97

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:-

With a hand tired & inclined to cramp & so trouble me not a little I sometimes turn to the slow-poke of a Hall for a change, tho it is not easy to take copies of what one writes.

Your kind, sympathetic letter of 7th. ult. came to hand, for which-thanks. Glad indeed are we if the right man has been hit upon for Miniter, or is it not Ambassador he is to be ranked hereafter? still if he is not well supported by the home Govt. it is little satisfaction he can give.

Yes, it does seem as tho Mr. K. might have been somewhere within the ranks so as to have helped overworked ones. Poor Dr. Raynolds-like myself- has been staggering along alone while another young Bro. has been at a distance.

I note with a bit of depression what you say as to its not being wise for Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Browne, etc'sreturning to this land, but my judgment approves of what you say on that point.

Seems to me your hint as to Mr. Ashdown's not being able to carry the work alone, but help by his presence, etc. indirectly bears me out in holding on here at considerable risk to health till the work is better secured.

I think you suggested in a past letter my turning over even Orphanage supervision to the Eng. consul, to some extent. If you have not known somewhat familiarly such officials, as often lacking in morals (the most sacred thing tohave about our Schs) I have, and find this one at hand anew is . . But I will say no more on that & only add that the most I can do this time is the Notes that refer to my tour Moush way, etc.

Yes, if I do say it seems to me Mrs. Cole has more than usual success of our ladies in interesting audiences, or I should n't consent to her taxing her

strength in such lines. I tell her she should go among some of the o
friends in Mass.&Conn. She wrote me from regions where she was flitt
long by the Miss'pi river on the cars. She met the Misses Ely but spoke o
as not looking strong, while their sister seemed to feel they were no
qual to the return; still so far as we have known them they will endu
more than appears on the surface.

Cordially yours,

R. M. Cole

I. L. B.
Rec'd 7-12-97
Ans'd 13

Hundreds are starving upon us for bread from the plundered villages and in most destitute condition they are. R. M. C.

Bitlis, June 15. 1897

Rev. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Only time to report fair measure of health and send on notes that may have some interest possibly for news as to the situation. Perhaps since the massacre there has not been a more critical time for these parts than now, first because of the defiant attitude of the Kouds that have been well helped upon their feet the past few years; and second because of bitter opposition that is taking form against our governor that has been doing fairly well of late. It is well nigh a state of anarchy in near regions to this city while it is said and affirmed that the "wilds" have even made threats as to this, Moush & Sert cities. We shall see what the future may develope. Perhaps I told you confidentially (what is hinted at in the circular) that our new Eng. official is not such morally as could be left in charge of orphans sarboed in Girls' Sch. which is a sad & painful argument to hold me on here. O that such officials could feel there was a point of honor in their private lives as well as public display!

Last Post not very satisfactory. No letter from Berlin, and no further news as to time of Mr. Ashidown's sailing or whether the Eckys to come with him. Hastily, &c

R. M. Cole

I. L. B.
Rec'd 8-9-97
Ans'd 11

Bitlis, July 5. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Yours of May 27th and 7th ult. both came to hand by the Post of yesterday.

Many thanks for your kindness in writing me so often and at such length. all of which is highly appreciated of course, though I realize you are very busy and should not be overtaxed in this respect. Yes, so far as I have any plans for the future I have little expectation of getting away before winter, as the young brother can hardly manage alone certainly unless one at least of the Ely sisters were to come out. Yes, we can furnish Mr. Ashdown needed furniture. Am glad to learn that the cablegram went through all right. No, when I mentioned Mr. Richardson I knew nothing of a Mr. Ashdown. It is quite clear Mrs. R. is not of a happy temperament, though she & he should have learned something from experience. My thought was for temporary supply, partly because some in the Mission, like Dr. R. of Van, felt if there were no other, may Mr. Allen's elder son better come for a time, but it seems to me Mr. R. should be able to do better work than Mr. A. so long separated from the language and land. But we trust Mr. A. and I can carry the Station till Mr. Knapp's case is settled.

We are encouraged to know that your purpose sending out more men, and do not propose to give up this land, whose redemption, so far as blood goes, should be assured. You may be interested in enclosures for some news items, and which you will perhaps kindly forward to Mrs. Cole. After setting up the sub-depot for relief at Yadwon, I shall return here, but may plan to go on as far as Mouth City to meet Mr. Ashdown should he come that route. Though I was over there rather recently other business calls for my presence there, the Consul feels. Seems to me I have written in the past hour for the two years we have sought to get permit to finish the newly begun little stable & kitchen with two small rooms above on a bit of garden purchased in my name adjacent to present Prot. premises there. Two Consuls previous to this one have kindly had a hand at the wheel in trying to get the Govt. at M. to let the work which had progressed so well, go on and the material in hand be used. This time the mutesarrif there appeared to yield the point apparently in granting that Mr. Cole might build that much to accommodate himself, but the Consul fears it may fail if I am not there at the outset. By going over a few days early I may attend to the business and also escort the tongueless Mr. Ashdown on the remainder of the way. Faithfully Yours R. M. Cole.

455

Rec'd 8-16-97
Ans'd 9-

Bitlis, July 20/97

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

Only time to report myself as in late usual health. Came back a few days since from Tadvan where I have been twice of late for some six days to attend to distribution of grain, &c to poor Sayyan region of Dr. Ris field. In ten days we have given out from that sub-depot nearly 2000 grades of wheat besides some money from Bitlis before - in all relieving more than 6000 persons once round - Shall look for my agents in to-morrow, & hope not to have to go out there again.

Was sorry to hear this Post that Mr. Ashdown was suffering from bad indigestion at C. so he might be delayed some weeks at Trebizond.

The political future all unknown to us here. Six cannon & 50 cart loads of ammunition arrived in town from the north yesterday. The idea may be to march on Mutgan Kurds, who have their own Govt of late, but likely the few xns scattered among them would be the first immolation. The Lord be present!

Excuse greatest haste and a cramp hand.

In usual health, spirits & clinging to the rock!

Cordially - R. M. Cole

Non-Fiction

B 8-26-97

Bitlis, Aug. 2. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

I am still holding to the wheel with a fair amt. of vigor we think. Natives seem to think I am as good as new - fully recovered from my bad turn of grippe the first of the winter though that is not true still I have learned pretty well how to take care of self as well as others. In the latter, especially in caring for our orphans when ill, as is often the case among so many, my reputation in such lines rather outstrips the so-called doctors, and I can't escape not a few outside calls. From what Miss Mary Ely wrote me at Fresno, Cal. recently they were expecting to start for Turkey "soon". They feel quite strongly the importance of bringing back with them from Erzroum Miss Grace Knapp. Mr. Chambers has written me two or three times about our passing her over to them permanently or at least loaning her for another year. I have always answered tho such a question pertained more to her, the Elys & Knapp family, though naturally subject to the approval of the Board. I have & do still say that it seems a very hard case to have Erzroum left with no lady teacher or worker for

woman when other stations have their twos & threes, certainly unless the N. B. is resolved to crush that work because of the Chambers-Richardson broil! But now comes Mr. Chambers vote asking us to sign him away from Erz., because the doctors tell his wife she must not return to that altitude; and he begs each station to express itself to you direct as to what had better be done for poor Erzroum.

1. My first one is that if possible the Crawfords and Chambers swap places. The former spoke of a willingness to come to my help but for the language. His Turkish would serve him very well in Erz., but if he didn't wish to stay on permanently Mr. K's case should evolve sometime.

But, 2. If that didn't work let young Mr. K. come on to Erz., but if not that far into the interior he replace Mr. Parmelee for a time at least at Trebd. while the latter come to resume his old work at least till some new man you might send him would get the ropes in hand.

Now there are the hasty thoughts I have thrown off that go for what they are worth. It certainly seems a pity to lose two such men as the Chambers and Knapps from the work in this Mission when we are in such straits for men.

Mr. Browne kindly offered to come over to help me till Mr. Ashdown came up; and now the Cattas is delaying so long at Trebd I have telegraphed him on, but to-day his answer comes "I cant come now"; which is explained I suppose by Dr. Barnum's note at hand saying he (Browne) "was laid up with malaria".

If he could have come over and Dr. Raynolds make us a brief visit after Mr. Ashdowns & possibly Alys (at least) arrival I had suggested something like a fall and meeting session as they do in Syria. If it could not serve you at Boston for the Boards meeting it seems very important for the future of our work in the mission. The new party would come through Erz and could represent the Station somewhat, Mr. Browne Hpl & Dr. R. van; while we might hope to subpoena some one up from Mardin whose outstation (calling for a tour) is only two days away. We shall see.

Had hoped Mr. A. would be here so if we go over the Estimates for '98 together but it is to be too late.

I sent on something in nature of Report for past year which Sob. vein would not be much brighter than that published for last year.

Am expecting to take another turn over Moush way for important work as well as to get a change.

Faithfully Yours R. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd 9-13-97
Ans'd 24

Bittis, Aug. 18. 1897

Dear Barton, D. L.

Many thanks for yours of 13th ult. at hand two days ago. You will have heard how Mr. Ashdown has stranded among the Mts. with the Crawfords some 24 hours from Trebd by "S.S." and horses. I can feel his ill turn of indigestion (probably brought on by steamboat and hotel diet) would have passed away before he had reached Eu if he had taken the easy conveyance of a phaeton as Mr. Baird did in coming up; but the wise heads at Conspie had him in tow & arranged as they thought best. He will hardly reach here much before the end of next month. Thanks for all your sympathy as also that of others. Please dont let any think of me as a sick man of the East(!) since I seem to have recovered from the effects of the grippe the first of the year - getting well you see by carrying extra timber! My going to Moncton or villages now and then gives a change but does not call for so long absence from my post as would the trip to Eu or Eu you so kindly suggest. Since I wrote you last I have been to Moncton again being absent 8 days for reasons explained in my circular enclosed. You have heard the old proverb "a hair of the same dog cures"; and so taking on another such tire o

P.S. yes I got little Sabbath or conference from Mr. Cuff. Official. Taken a house for me.

James Stewart on Moncton Avenue overlooking girls school and Mrs. Stewart sen. needs the extra room. Rent of her house but half brick. Could not do better. Dear Barton, D. L. Barton

Such a name as that of one of the saints deserves. Taking on!

as comes of a journey in hot Aug. together with wear of the work in that part of the field, is a change after all, even though work accumulates here in my absence. One of our old pupils for a time, now a stanch deacon in the church of a village, wearied from trying to keep up with the horsemen, on foot as he was, asked to take the saddle bags from one of the horses that when he gave it back he might trip on feeling all the lighter; so it may be counted, perhaps, in my case, - I give over one tired to take up another, and so try to hold on till my young Timothy arrives for me to lean upon somewhat at least.

From what Mr. Knapp writes me the wise heads (Com. Ad. Sub.) have resolved he should not take up work again anywhere in this empire. Now hard up as we are for men in this Mission it seems to me a great pity to discourage such a young man, and let him drop out of the work altogether. Both Mr. Broome & Dr. Barnum, as of course you know, are just crushed under their burdens, considering their poor health, or the former would have come to me till Mr. Ashdown's arrival. Now to let such a man as Mr. K. with his two languages, fall through this may seems strange. If he here to help out Ayh or if not there Em, where his sister is, the air would clear away after awhile, and his case for the future could be decided. Are men but young men of no language likely to be much better than he for the work or so considered by the Gov^t? Hastily, &c. R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Aug. 24. 1897

Dear Dr. Barton;

Though I wrote you last week enclosing circular yet considering mixtures on the Persian border you will be all the more anxious, though they be brief reports of safety at least. Our Govt is rather on the rampage for Revs. and two of our helpers now lie in this prison, as if associated with them, one having been under arrest for nearly three mos. but in a provincial prison. He is of the kind to be the farthest away from all such intriguings. We know not how the case will turn but ask prayers for them especially. There are many other Gregorians in with them & two Prots. at least. We have no further news as to Mr. Ashdown or Mr. Lawford; apparently they are "out of the world into the bushes" where they have not hostal communication, or refrain for sake of rest.

Mr. A. has given me no direction as this Post. Your letters
as also others, have reached my hands.
Mr. K. writes me this Post he plans leaving for U.S. Sept. 15th
so decided because of complete Coni-ud-Int-resolution on his
as think I wrote You last week. I write Mr. Peck that seems
if he (Mr. K.) could not work anywhere in the empire because o
Lials know of him, the same argument might obtain as to
Fuller of Antab & Mr. Macallum of Marash, for have they not
under the ban, and for that matter myself also have had a
moons away back some mos. since, as I must have written Yo
and I hear my name was barely mentioned in connection
these helpers, for do I not write letters to our helpers - not on
that may have been among their hopers. May I ask You to ha
the circular to Miss Childs, N.B. & that to Miss Ely, whose sai
may have taken place before this arrives. Hastily & in usual hea

10-4-97
25

Bitlis, Sept. 6. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Many thanks for your good cheer under date of the 11th ult. at hand yesterday.

You were then thinking of Mr. Ashdown as already with me. He seems to have been delayed well on to a week in Erzrum for all haste in his pushing on was talked. He left there last Friday and should be here in three or four days from this date if all goes well.

(Yes, if the Ely sisters were to arrive in the next four or six weeks even possibly with their language to help out) might get on to your western world before winter set in. I very much need a change and entire absence from the country I admit, and so my "judgment" (for you refer to that in your letter) makes this clear to me, and in view of that I think Mrs. Cole better hold on where she is. It would be such a help in the orphanage & sch. work if the Elys were here, and would be such a safeguard for a new inexperienced missionary in meeting such grave responsibilities; for they are of good policy, safe in money matters and all-round workers generally of course. There may be one consideration respecting my leaving the country from what Dr. Raynolds writes

respecting the A. S. Barnum, as he has heard it; of course you will know if it is true an effort may be made to keep him from entering this country and if so what danger there would be imminent for me. That may be one way to shove out the missionary element by letting them drop out one by one not to return! So far as appearance goes our local Govt & voli are not opposed to me, but God alone knows the heart of men. I think it quite wise, as you suggest, to consult our new Minister Angell before allowing such a man as Mr. Knapp to drop out of our so depleted ranks. He is a patient, congenial worker that no one should have trouble with, and should not be lost to this work. But I have expressed my mind on this before & need not repeat. Glad to know there is prospect of another recruit for E. T. mission. Mr. Brownes just at hand gives a dark look for the health side of that station.

Thanks for your hint at a change by going to Wan, but seems to me that would not help out much and I better try to get things into shape so I can get farther away.

Am much encouraged to know so many are so faithfully 'holding the ropes' while we stand down amid this so keenly felt darkness. God bless all the dear friends not a few of whom are & will remain unseen & unknown by me down here though up there it may appear what a power their prayers have been for poor me. Hastily &c R. McCook

P. S. I see from Dr. Raynolds last circular at hand this Post, that fear is expressed that difficulty may arise when Mr. H. S. Barnum wishes to return to his home in Coniah. I recall that he was not allowed to come up to Erzrum to help Mr. Chambers in relief, as the English subject, Mr. McNaughton of Smyrna, came. If there be really ground for such apprehension and the plank is to be removed as soon as a missionary steps over the border it becomes a serious one and has special significance for me about this time. Our consul here seems to think it quite probable this Govt may take such a course on the score that they are disturbing elements for a false statement, but all the same to them if but it serves their purpose. If such an upshot should evolve then Mrs. C. with our youngest daughter had better hasten on before winter and I go to near the border somewhere to bring them in, though really I much need to get clear outside for a change & airing for I have had a hard time of it these more than two years, as you know. Am sorry that I have not gotten off Estimates but sort of waited for Mr. H. till it is too late. Please give us all you can & there is to be great need for teachers & preachers if safety comes in. R. M. C.

Bills, Sept. 6, 77

p 2

J. L. B.
Rec'd 10-25-97
Ans'd 25

Bitlis, Sept. 28. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Yours of the 2d reached my hands on the 24th day - pretty good time considering the land. You had Mr. Baird with you as a sort of connecting link between me and you as Mr. Ashdoon has been between you and me. Mr. A. wrote you two posts back and I have passed over to him some Mission House paper as a hint suggesting that these time you liked frequent communications if not long; but as one post has passed with nothing I rub my pen to paper again. I am sorry if Miss Ely is poorly though Mrs Cole writes me right after a brief visit with them at Oberlin that she seemed much better.

I am glad for Mr. A's sake as well as her own if Miss Dickie is coming right on, and I suggested his telegraphing you as he did, feeling it would be so much better if she were here to take up the study of the language with him. It seems to me Mr. and Mrs. Knapp should be the ones to come back to some one of these needy stations rather than the Richardsons. Yes. Mr. Crawford's tongue is Greek first, but for temporary supply at least I did not know but he could have managed Turk, supposing Mr. Chambers was to leave soon then anyway.

Of course Dr. Parmelee would need a young man to come into helping carry the Erz work, but in missionary matters, policy &c he would be a safe one to initiate a new worker for the interior.

I do not feel sure that Dr. P. would wish to exchange places with Mr. Chambers as a permanency, certainly unless he could be assured a new man pretty promptly, as the touring of that field is hard & long and he is past 60.

Am very glad of prospect another new man is to be sent out. We are glad also to know the financial outlook is brighter so that the Board's Treasy is coming out better than feared.

The prospect is Mr. A. may start back to Erz next week to meet the coming party, though the tel. from them has not yet arrived. He has been occupied in getting Mrs. K's (Sen.) house into order so as to set him up a home after the return from Erzroum. He will then be able to settle down to study of the language we trust. The question of this house, by the way, has some importance for Mrs. Knapp Sen. now living with her son Mr. Herbert Knapp at Colorado Springs. She is much in need of the rent of the property. The Consul allowed £45 a year for the flat he occupied, but with such an incumbent as the present one I felt sure she would not wish him to be bringing such a name upon it, and so let the man seek another place, which turns out to be only across the narrow street from our girls Sch. and

has a room so high as to look right down into it. He pays £24 a year for that house smaller than Mrs. K's. I know missionary rent for B. was put down from 20 to 15 pounds though the former figure was what it always was in Em but seems to me Mrs. K. should be allowed for her large house and garden £20-25 and perhaps £5 to 10 more put on the Woman's Board as rent for the Misses Ely's part which and should go to help Mrs. K. in her need. Young Mr. Knapp wrote me recently as though the family would be glad to sell it for a consulate but the Eng. Gov^t would not buy property for such but gets on by renting. Besides, owing to long litigation over this property in the past it would not sell well in town I fear, and especially these times, though it serves a family & the lady teachers well.

By the way, Mr. X. says a dear friend of Miss Dickie's graduates from medicine next season, and when I said we had in the past asked for such an one for Bitlis he said if she meets come out he knew where the money could be found to support her; though I barely mention it here the question may come up again in the future considering that the Elys may not hold out - one or both of them - long, and I dont feel at all sure it is right to force Miss Grace back here considering the success Mr. Le. says she has had at Ou, left all free to herself there, and from the great need of that station.

We are very busy in getting ready our score of orphans to send away to Bardizag and Smyrna. We sent five to the latter place a year ago, and are glad to supply as many as we can prevail upon the more permanent orphanages to take up. The dear children have found a warm place in my heart. You might see playing upon my lower roof in front of my eyes more than a hundred of these God's little ones, the boys taking their turn to be followed by more than 70 girls that now seem so happy. Our girls sch. yard is so crowded that I allow them this freedom of my premises for more elbow room. There are touching, almost heart-rending recitals that might be given in regard to most of them, if only time and strength would permit. Some of them bear scars upon the person that show how near they were to death as much as their friends. Though their ages range from 6 to 12 years he took in little Avdo if less than four. His mother hugged him to her breast though a bullet had been shot through both her knees; and it was not till the fiendish ones had filled the dagger that the little one rolled from her grasp and some one whisked him off, as also his sister next older and a brother to a place of safety, and here they are in this new home for them. But I must not write more.

Very Sincerely R. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd 11-1-97
Ans'd 10

Bitlis, Oct. 5. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Perhaps just a page and the circular of news may not be out of place, as I see nothing is going to you this time and as I am to be away again for a week. Mr. Ashdown understands it from the rules or instructions of pamphlet perhaps it is, a quarterly letter is what is asked for from each missionary. How recreant I have been of such rules; but as you asked for more frequent reports of safety, &c I have dashed off frequent notes & sent along hasty circulars &c feeling you, one of our own number, would not be critical and might like to hear often.

Our latest from the Eclys was as they were approaching Liverpool on the 18th ult., but they made no reference to traveling companions, which looks as though Miss Dickie was not along, and it seems they sailed just two days before Mr. A. sent you his telegram that she come with the Eclys. I tell him you may have started her off so she overtake them in Eng. or Germany where they seemed to plan delay. I am obliged to make my 3d trip for the season to Mosul but expect to be back (D.V.) a week from to-day. Should Miss Dickie be along Mr. A. will have soon for Eng to meet them. Hoping they may be prospered en route. Hastily, &c

K. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd 11-18-97
Ans'd 19.

Bitlis. Oct. 18. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Briefly every other week may not be out of place for you at the Rooms these times while circulars give news items for mission circles especially. Your letter of good cheer dated the 24th ult. came to hand this last Post and gave the just definite news that Mr. Astadourian's Miss Dickie was Mrs. Chambers traveling companion. I wonder if Mr. A's tel. as to her coming reached you. Thank God for the better outlook for our Board's Treasury and may it be that the whole debt be wiped out at the meeting now just closed, as we suppose, though we can get only an occasional periodical; so we are not posted. I had a pleasant note from Pres't Angell this last Post in reply to mine of welcome to him & self introduction. I wish he might see his way to take up Mr. K's case at least for some other if not this station of Turkey. He has not been long out of the army and has had over a year at the Berlin University; so I don't see why he might not be good enough for our mission seminary at Aph that should be started up soon. We came quite near sending one of our nice young men away on to Marsovan because there is no class at Aph. Would any of the new

men out with an imperfect tongue if any be likely to do better than Mr. K. we wonder. As a member of the Mission I would cast my vote for Mr. K. for a position in that what we call our Mission Service. Mr. Ashdown expects to leave this to meet the party at Erzum by next from the coming Monday. We fear the party may suffer with cold before reaching here. When once they are here and we all canvass the situation, see how much language Mr. A. will have absorbed, &c., then I may begin to lay definite plans as looking to a time of rest, possibly leaving this late in Dec. Of course it would be out of the question to think of the northern route at that season while the Med.n & Atlantic are anything but attractive, tired as I am. Do you know I have thought somewhat of taking a rapt down the Tigris to Persian Gulf and possibly go eastward on to Cal. as if the Pacific be true to its name it might treat me better than the Atlantic, and I should escape the cold journey and have a long "restful journey," as Dr. Thom calls it - feeling pleased with the idea, on to my sisters north of Cal. in Walla Walla, Wash. Of course I should not call on the Board to pay more than the ordinary expense for single men the usual route, if I decided to go east.

Am sorry to hear Mr. A. leave so soon, but naturally he must go on as for Erzum. Hastily, &c.

R. M. Cole.

463

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-3-97
Ans'd

Bitlis, Nov. 2. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Such times as we are living in it is not well perhaps to let many posts pass without a note from us to say "All's well" at least, as they call out on the Atlantic steamers you know.

My simplex met with a mishap so my circular is not very plain but you will be able to make out most of it without difficulty I trust, and if so you will see that Mr. Ashdown left for Erz yesterday. Owing to Eng. red-tape he must needs take out time enough then to sort of gain a marriageable residence - near to three weeks in all perhaps it must be.

I only fear they may have a cold if not snowy ride from there on here so late in the season.

We trust you will have had a glorious meeting of the Board, but it may be little we shall learn of it through the papers, as was the case last year. The papers bearing all such things are not allowed to reach us - somebody being kind (?) enough to mess out to us such as may not work harm to the political stomach and so let only such penetrate the land as can have little influence any way. Fairly well. Greetings.

Yours as ever R. M. Cole

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-3-97
Ans'd

Bitlis, Nov. 9. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

"Short and sweet", if only the latter part might be true, should be prompting in my dropping you a note so often. My circular gives news items enable you to have the inside track on any rumors that might get abroad these times. Agitators have been trying only too hard & fear to set another deluge of blood going, but I trust they will not succeed. But "regulars" sent out ostensibly to ferret out such characters make matters all the worse by spending their wrath in beating innocent parties, quartering their vile selves on the families in villages! He! Five large houses on the next street to ours are being emptied to make ready for troops that it is said are soon to arrive from Van. What may be in the air we know not, only that our chief claims to be laboring hard to head off evil designs of such agitators, both xns and other, as he says aim to set something going he might not be able to stop and his life even might go. He, too, has his Kurdish enemies. This much to go along with the circular. My eyes are troubling me for some days - quite a new experience for Cole - so I can't write so much this week. I hoped to get off another report of our work for orphans this week, but with sore eyes I have to give it up. Fair health but troubled too much with insomnia. As ever. R. M. Cole

Boston, Nov 9, 1897

Mrs James S. Boston R.R.

Short and sweet, I send the letter from Murphy so you should see everything in my direction you is not so quiet. My overshoes were stolen from Murphy's house. He would take out some runners from Murphy's house. Athletics have been trying hard to feed another change of blood among but I think this will be research but regular sent out returning to your town where I make matters and the press by giving this matter in letting unknown certain punishing this will be in the country!

Mrs Judge Barnes on the night street to come see being sent real to murder secret for Mrs. Hall in said in been to see. Mrs Barnes Mrs Hall were in the city to Barnes night. Mrs Hall's our blood blamed. In Mrs Hall's house real dangers of murder matters. Mrs Barnes and other on to say Barnes. Murphy not be able to take Murphy's house Barnes. Mrs Barnes to go along with the Barnes. My eyes on troubling me for a new experience in tools. I think I get off real quick so much this week. Athletics matters report from murder of Barnes this week real quick. I have to open it up. This is all Mrs Barnes not mistaken. Yours. R.M. Barnes

Confidential

James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton

Yours of the 25th ult. is at hand and
a good tonic for a lonely fellow like myself at present.
Very glad indeed am I for all the success of the meeting
the Board. Yes, the paper came through, which was not the
case last year - a bit of improvement in that line you see.
Some one was kind enough to mail two sets but only
half (one number) of the second came through - the other part
straying somewhere. Enough, however, that the one came.
Yes, I knew full well you should have estimates of the stations
before you, but I hoped to have Mr. Ashdown with me in July
we could talk them up together, but you know how he
was delayed a six weeks at Trebizond. Then when he did
reach here partly perhaps from being tired and partly from being
much occupied in setting the Knapp house in order for a new home,
got very little help out of him save in gathering up accounts.
red and cramp as my hand is apt to get. I do not refer to
in nature of complaint, but chiefly in nature of apology on my
t for seeming remissness. As we have not been able to
cate any helpers as yet in Boulanouk and Akhlat re-
ion owing to the status quo it was hard to arrange names
nd places much better than was done in the old copy
u must have on file for this station. Two helpers of Akhlat
e doing what preaching & teaching they do in our Bitlis fra-
for three months, while our only ordained evangelist
the field is off at Constantinople for treatment of cancer

to involve us in no little expense. In fine, we
carrying nearly our usual number of helpless though
few in this city are wholly or in part an orphanage
while the prisoners and one off at Cousiple hill be enou
extra expense to us to more than make up for help of orphana
The Knapp konak is sort of double house - accommodating mi
ary family and the lady teachers, and so should draw 20 - 25 pe
rent seems to me. The Consul allowed 45, without the to
Ely rooms, and that was not so high in proportion as he had
paying in Monastir city, tho I hear his new quarters here cost 2
As for Mr. Knapp's case and my plans for myself this winter
which you refer, I have felt it would not be safe for me to a
to hold on without a change of some months at least, a
have been planning with reference to leaving in Jan. or
via So. route for the Western world if the friends reach hi
middle of Dec. as seems now hopeful they may. This has
the almost uniform advice in letters from the field & outside
some, like Dr. Thom, have blamed me for not even leaving
all alone rather than this risk my health - One marked ex
this Post is a Postal from Mr. Knapp in Bohemia who takes me
for thinking of leaving the Elys alone this winter with a new ma
makes out my case ~~out~~ to be no worse than that of Dr. Gates of
who has had associates about him & now a Mr. Huntington reaching
After having carried my young associates burdens the last fi
months he was in B. because he persisted in keeping house - bo
though I was going & coming as usual, and to have moved
amid the freedom of Europe these 20 months - doing his ow
pleasure, posing at a German university, &c but only to tu
round and chide me for thinking of taking a change that
many have blamed me for not doing - calling me "persistent" fo
holding on so, I repeat this seems a bit hard though & I
quite sure his mother & wife would not agree with him in t
You should receive circulars & note to Dr. Dunning under l

1-19-98
1-26

466

Bitlis, Dec. 10. 1897

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Though I referred to yours of 25th Oct. in my recent personal note sent along with the circulars, yet I wish to refer to it again in one or two points.

You were sorry not to have had Bitlis Estimates, and tho it may be too late and I am still alone I hasten on what I have drawn up alone, and which may serve to steady the eye somewhat if it is not altogether too late. I had no thought they would be so late but explained reasons last week. I am not sure as to what you can allow us but just the amt. about as it was in '95. Just at present we have hardly half our places in hand outside, while two of our helpers of Akhlat region are still in our B. prison. Still just as you acted on faith in the New Haven meeting so do we out here for all the darkness - trusting to work these places in '98. The Lord surely is not going to hold us in this way but bring us out into a larger place even for this land we hope.

You speak of interest in my future plans when the party reach here. Quite likely the Ely sisters may feel rather strongly that I should not leave them right away, and their talk with Mr. K. may have had something to do with his writing me as he did on the matter. But I feel I must get away for a change just as soon as is prudent after their arrival. Added to my danger of nervous

Rec'd Jan. 7, Nov. 10
S. S. See this. Mr. Nesbitt figures in Chicago & Oney, as one who has sung denominational changes, &c. Church, & well the country, &c.

prostration - signaled by insomnia to quite an extent, slight twitching of muscles about the eye, &c. I have rather a bad cough upon me. I have learned pretty well how to take care of my health, if not to put more off upon others, but some how I seem to have taken cold & I must look out for my lungs. I should hope the journey would clear the cough away as it did one I had before when we started to come on to America. Still I can stand considerable yet, but dont wish to break down. If I can feel it right to leave them soon in Kb. I should hope to see standing in my lot and place here Mrs. Cole if not Mamie with me a year from this very time. That would seem to me better than to take out the winter in America as naturally would be if I didn't get off till into May, as usual. Or suppose the party must have left Eu & may reach here next week, though we have no tel. from them to that effect yet. I suggested to Mr. Ashdown to hold on here to help me till he felt sure as to when the party was to reach Eu & only plan to get there about that time, but partly in hopes some special arrangement could be made with the Ambassador so the marriage take place about as soon as Miss Dickie, he has been a seven weeks almost of there; so hitherto he has not buckled down to work either here or there. I needed him very much in getting up accts, and hope he is such a one as will be very efficient in that departt as he has had experience in business houses & accounts; he also writes rapidly and a pretty hand as you know. When they all reach here you may be spared so many scrawls from my pen. Weather mild & very little snow. Conditions not unfavorable

Sincerely R. M. Cole

P.S. I note what you say about Nov. 10th. Consul Newport has back. I read his article with interest & passed it on to Sec. R. was pleased with it & said he would send it to Sec. Day.

1-19-98
1-28

Private -

Bitlis, Dec. 14/97

Dear Dr. Barton;

Just now comes documents from Mardin and among them copy of Mr. Andrus letter to you on the Mosul question - If you need the recent fr it we veterans of the Mission recall that question has been "thrashed out" in old mission meetings perhaps the last time in my presence at Mardin with your delegate Mr. Perrone in attendance. It seemed clear Mr. Station were not fully agreed on the matter, Mr. Dewey at least rather holding off from it. Though this question is not before our Mission at the present time and I for one would quite as soon it should not be in the future, I pass on an informal though opinion nevertheless should you care to read it, and cast this non-official note into the waste-basket. I never did believe in Mosul as a separate station of our mission and did what I could to oppose a scheme of heavy

Rec. R.L. 1898 Bitlis

expenditure for buildings there for missionary occupation, a
thought if it be held at all it should be as an outpost
of Mardin. But at the present time, considering stress f
means & men in our Board (which is the chief reason f
one drops it & takes it) I doubt the wisdom of our Bo
taking it up in any form. Between you and me seems th
Mardin might with propriety give more attention to the Sert & mo
part of their field even if it be peopled to quite an extent by th
they might say, bad 'Arm.n element' become in its terrible state it ha
restive. I have suggested that they have a sch. teacher who knows Armen
Sert once in the field when one replied 'No, thank you, no Arm.n gue
us'. Sherwan a province of S. terrible scenes were inaugurated, 10-15 burnt
the men left alive forced to recant in faith, while poor parentless children
to wander about when they should be gathered into orphanages. A relig
was sent to Sert when ch. members, but Armenians one a Dra.n I think trusty, but th
was an Assyrian Dr. as Dr. Thom when he was up here did it on a
things in charge & was not closely inspected though it has been consta
talked (my account is from Sherwan) that said agent took bribes
leaving only half of the poor. The man was killed & another been sent. This
note means I don't believe much in Mosul but more in Sert region. M

1-18-98
1-28

Herald

468

Bitlis, Dec. 21, 1897

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton;

Our last mailer catches us up short by informing us that letters must all be in hand 13 day instead of to morrow, as winter roads demand more time to the coast. I have written you in the past as to my plans & hope for a Sassounian branch for orphans & think I said £55 had come from Eng. for that. Mr. Peet writes me just now that £250 more is now credited me for this object, at the instance of Sir Philip Currie I take it from what his secretary writes me. Though an Eng. Ambassador both in Sassoun & relief here he has backed me up splendidly - passing on appreciation memorial words from Lord Salisbury himself. & Recently, in absence of Consul I wrote him as to our two helpers in prison & the above Moush Sassounian object. The prisoners 29 in all exclusion of our helpers, were brought yesterday and here's the £250 for the Sassounian plant. Mr. Peet speaks as though this was from money at hands of our Board & suggested I write you as to how that branch is to go on if I leave for a vacation. It is already running. I having been over to Moush for that business as you know. We have an efficient representation there in our Moush preacher, Arpean Vartanian, one of your old AIM pupils you will remember. Though

for buildings and prudence's sake we have started up with 10-15 in Mogounk village, it is only one half hour distant; so the preacher goes out almost every day. The priest of the village is in co-operation with us giving a few lessons, as the preacher felt so strongly was best, though I advised putting off this part of the arrangement till spring from no demand of his services as so few. But the preacher is enthusiastic over it and I have hope it may result in good if the arch fiend at C doesn't enter too much into the problem. You will see from circular as to his missive sent here. I know him from of old - he being in Eng when I was there & ostensibly friendly. Of course I have no thought of going against clear revelation of God's will if it be in me not to get away in Feb. or March but going early I should expect to be back to my post here in less than a year from this date, whereas if I don't go on Mrs. Cole will make a forced march on us this spring when I should get no rest or change for years. Eng letters lead us to expect the Ely-Ashdown party now in two days. Think of that cultured couple donning for an early wedding last Tuesday morning; soon after doffing that for road regimentals and the same day making 6 hours on horse-sled over unbuilt road on towards Bitlis! Theirs should constitute a unique chapter on a wedding trip on runners - romance of missions indeed. Hastily, &c

R. W. Cole

Bitlis, Jan 15. 1898

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

2-18-98 469

3-1

Dear Dr. Barton:

Both yours of Dec. 7th and 17th came to hand by the last Post, four days since.

Yes, the friends are here at last, as you will have heard from them, as well as from others of our number, and they are all at work now - the Elys being much run upon by callers. I am sorry to say the Es had a very hard time on from Erz especially though I hope nothing serious has come of it. They seem convinced I must get off for a brief change if not rest and cheerfully approve of my leaving as soon as possible with the proviso that we get back next Dec. Of course it is going to be doubly hard for them, as they of same policy and careful use of the Boards funds naturally should be much in evidence on most of the work of the field since Mr. has no language or experience. Had I felt it prudent to hold on I should so decide & let Mrs. E. come on without me the coming season, for as I have written her it is like drawing the heart asunder and caused tears to come as the Moush plea arrived begging that I visit them there again; indeed I am not sure but I shall attempt that trip before entering upon my long journey to the Coast. I shall see when the Post arrives from that way.

I shall hope to get off in some three weeks if I do not go to Mosul perhaps reaching America rather early in April coming via Alexandretta and Marseilles. Have written friends to address me c/o Henry Keen, Esq. 114 High Holborn, London W.C. after receipt of letters of this date.

By the way I don't seem to have acknowledged your note of Nov. 19th accompanying the appropriations. Naturally in reducing on preachers & teachers sals. it should touch the American workers as well. There are some things in the salary list I don't understand at this distance like, for instance Mr. Brown, Mr. Stapleton having £.T. 97.50 while Dr. R. counted single (since his wife is of N.B. support) is 105 as also Mr. Andrus; while Dr. Thom is away up to 209.50 when one only of his children would be added if there if I remember his age. It may be different but has a reason for it. I'm glad even this much can be allowed for the work proper when the poor disheartened people can do so little. I may tel. you from Liverpool if so should be obliged if the message might be repeated by letter at least to Oberlin, to Frederick H. Cole 20 East 50th St. N.Y. and to Geo. H. Cole, 1107 Market St. Phila. I shall be likely to report myself on the way by letters that will be in advance of me.

I will put in enclosures — Hastily, &c — R. M. Cole

Also my sister, Mrs Norris Hinds, "Rocky Bottom", near Yo

Confidential. 3-28-98 3-1 470

Bitlis, Jan 29. 1898

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.

Though I may reach that land early in May (as I plan to leave this via Alexandretta, Marseilles & London last of next week or first of the following) yet I will send a brief note with enclosure, and also write you as an E. M. brother but for this waste-basket file!

Only that I feel it imperative that I leave soon I could not drop things here as they are. Though Mr. A. is apparently a man of natural ability in certain lines, yet he is peculiar. After leaving the Elys to slight for themselves in south, and forcing away from them the only one which he seems able to pursue such a cold isolated course now he is here and in the same house with them, and much the same with me for that matter, I having to climb over to him for everything and he holding back from such things for work as I suggest to him even. I have got very little help indeed from him thus far, tho he reached here first in Sept. (10th I think) But I no need to trouble you in detail and the Elys should tell of their very trying experience from Eur on & not I; but my anxiety now is for the work, especially if to have his own way, without heeding at all judgment of the Es of 30 years experience in south, he makes such use of money. If he would only consult them so near by in the same house, they are experienced & of sound policy, but I fear he won't. Wonder how it would do for you in writing him to say he is fortunate in having such good, experienced associates as the Elys and that he will naturally be in frequent consultation with

them on various matters. it being all the easier as they are in the same house, or to some such effect. Excuse me making the suggestion, but I thought you might be glad of it for sake of safety to the work & finances. Yours sincerely. Of course I pass this along, not in nature of complaint, but in hopes this with facts known gives you vantage ground to gently hint to the young brother, who I am forced to leave for a time. As I have before written you I firmly plan to be back to my post here next Dec. and hence must needs see out in the work or my time in America will be short indeed. Of course if you make any hints to Mr. A. you will do not as though I had posted you on matters, for I myself, to be too poor a stick to think of complaining of a fellow missionary. If the man will only come to and seek the advice of experience he will come right in the house with him, it will be all right no doubt.

I shrink from the long journey but trust to shall come through all right and so much improved when you see me you will ask for what are you on here for?

Hastily, &c

R. M. Cole

Dear Dr. Barton:

"Thus far the Lord hath led me on" towards the home-land shore. Leaving on the 7th ult., as I think I reported to you, I arrived in Alexandretta by horse all the way on the 26th ult. Of this three Sabbaths of rest and nearly two more days delay of caravan at Aleppo, and two waiting for steamer at Alexandretta, covers the time together with that spent in the round "labor dangers & suffering" incident to traveling in Syria. You, too, know in that capacity

James L. Barton, D.D.
Nashville, Tenn.
R. M. Cobb
Rev. R. M. Cobb
I shall return to Egypt in March
Yours truly
Mary Baird
Egypt
1898
4574
26-98

My first Sab. at Diarbekir
was induced by pastor Hogo
spoke to his people rather brief
in Armenian, and at Aleppo
mostly in that language, the
pastor there putting most of it
into Turkish, as was the c
also at Mersine, where I
on shore for most of the 4th Sa
where I attended church, met
Gods people and workers the
also went ashore and had
most of Monday at Tripo
with my old college frien
missionary March, (son of
world tourist, Dr. March), th
to Beyrout, where again I
among friends we made
'82 when spending 6 mos. the

rest after late Russo-Turkish war.
e I ticketed for this place, hoping
ind an early North German Lloyd
, but time was none for Genoa.
b fortunately there is a Messagerie
e in a few hours, going to Marseilles
nd & in same time the other round
Genoa, and costing only 28 francs
re - they too making a deduction
missionaries - making in all
m Alexandretta round to Mar-
lles only 300 francs, though I
2d class, and was without food
Beyrout. From Beyrout had the
ughest sea I ever saw
aking most of the passengers
y ill, though by keeping my berth
did suffer any to speak of.
ather still not hopeful - making
e feel all the more like slipping
terra firma at Marseilles for
ilway on to London 2 class again.

I am making all haste to reach
point so as to get letters, since
from Oberlin of more than 2 w
(it having come via Biskra) writ
by our children told Mrs. B
being so seriously ill the doct
advised their telegraphing our
on from N. York city. I must h
she was better or a tel. would h
reached me c/o our consul at Sk
dretta. You will realize how anxi
I have stood the journey well th
fortunately had little rain tho m
to trouble to the coast while nearly a
cold winds new to the back - very di
from having to face it. The show
was it being the ramazan Tu
men eating & talking when Sleep
seem the more sensible thing. Pe
he should prey this our flight, i
the winter, another time, be not in
a fan or when moslem pilgrims
up on every hand en route for Mec
Islam seems much more promin

4-18-98

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Very many thanks for your kind letter of welcome that greeted me in N. York, as also for yours of 28th Jan. that arrived here recently after its wanderings up and down in Turkey!

Thanks for your cordially & proffered offices of assistance while may be in the land. I noted what you said as to need of rest should we sail in Nov. and acting on this line I didn't come on to Lynn, though forgot to speak to Dr. Creegan as did in my haste on eve of starting for this place. Apparently I shall not find it easy to keep out of public work here as was the case before in Amherst, mass. though I have refused three or four cases, but have yielded for week from Sunday and was called out impromptu by my old sch. friend Dr. Gunn in the meeting last night.

Yes, I shall be glad to call at the Rooms before my departure again some six mos. hence.

Am very glad if Dr. Hepworth changed his tone after learning as I have heard from others and yours indicates. Give him pointers as to our hard of the country & pretty fully.

You may have heard from the Eclys that things thicken at Bitlis and troops here on the march towards Van again with firing of two guns at time of Turkish prayers last night caused a panic among xns lest another massacre was to take place. Letters of our circle were entrusted to them and to send or delivered to them with no pretension

of covering it up as in the flash, so that they sent
as well as bros under seal of the Consular seal.
I state these things in case Yours failed to come thro
I had a very successful march on from B. both by
and by land - only taking 40 days continuous journey
counting out Sabs in the overland and delays on boa
as also in London, when I reached my letters so as to le
Mrs. Cole was coming out of her serious illness.
You can imagine how anxious I was during my jour
from Alexandretta (where I rec'd the children's letter telling
illness) up to London where I could have the next letter.
There is much I might say of my journey towards the h
land there, meeting with patrons of relief and orphans in
te, but your time is too much taxed as well as my own
go over things not in demand for particular use.
Of course seven years have made changes in our chil
as we shall note in other friends when we meet them
You will excuse this hasty missive that I hurl o
paper that happens at hand - my mission Home supply being in

Very cordially

R. M. Cole -

P.S. Am glad to say that Mrs. C. has so far re
covered that she bids fair to be as good as new
ere long, while I am reviving from the reaction incid
to such a long journey & loss of sleep overland
when sons of the Zaittfall!) were at Ramazan and gro
of devotees were en route for Mecca C.

Oberlin, O. Apr. 14/98

Rev. R. M. Cole

Confidential.

473
6-4-98
10

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Many thanks for
ours of 20th ult. duly received.
It does seem a pity you
and people in Boston must
have so much trouble with
orkers in the field and especially
our mission, possibly you might say,
It is for this reason that some
us may be loth to speak out.
I am in doubt as to how much
ely sisters may have written
you as to Mr. Ashdown but
suspect it has been little.
Felt very desirous of speaking
ery plainly to him before
aving B. but they begged me
not to fearing it might make it

all the harder for them. Feeling
confident any such advice
would be lost on him; la
I came to about this conclu
sion and so write him very
little, and how can I after sd
a letter (the only one sent me
since our parting in B. Feb. ?
as I suppose. No, I have
believe he made the senten
you refer to as looking to wha
you had written him.
The trouble is he seems to lo
upon seniority in the service
inability, has no gallantry in th
and probably resident lady teach
where if he has for ladies generally
However, I better not write mu
on this subject, though when we
we might talk more.
It occurred to me perhaps
confidence I had better sen
you Dr. Raynold's idea of

man, as he got it from Evan-
gelist Millard, who, you probably
know, has been at Bitis. If
convenient sometime you might
return to me this quotation.
I have hope the Dr. & Mr. Andrus'
visit at B. and their trip on with
him to Eum as also the anti
meeting will do much for him.
We are very glad to know Miss
Ford is coming to our Mission.
I knew her and her father
and seems to me she will be
a splendid accession to the force.
We are planning to take in part
of the Cleveland A. H. M meeting
on our way eastward. Am not
sure whether Mrs. C. and I shall
come round by Boston, but
shall look to expense when we
reach Albany & Saratoga where
we visit friends a few days - the

children coming up to join
there; their sch^s are not ou
till that time. It will cost
heavily, so we shall watch
route that will be cheapest a
Quite likely Mrs. C. and poss
I may go with them northwa
from Saratoga over to St. Jo
bury, Vt. & N.H. Shall see.
We are all in usual heal
and enjoying life in this delight
place. I am to go to a Young
Ladies' Rally at Elyria to speak
this coming Saty. This will be the
first time I have spoken out
of Oberlin but have refused several
I shall write you briefly & oft
and let you know any needed ch
in our address.

Hastily but cordially

R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole, St.

Oberlin, O. Apr. 20. 1898

Dear Dr. Barton;

The enclosed as to "Joint Clergy certificate" will explain itself. And if you will kindly send by return the needed statement made out for us both I shall be obliged. Mrs. Cole has had one, but the time of its run out Jan. 1/98 and the Com^r. writes her as he writes me that a statement from the executive officer is needed. I wonder if anything in that line could be realized in New-Eng. which region we wish to visit ere very many weeks. To save time lest you be away from your office, and also as Mrs. Baird seems to have received that as well, I have asked Treas^r Wiggin to also put in a statement to come by return.

I hope you have good & not imp
ortant news from Bitlis. Our
last some two weeks since was
by Miss Charlotte Ely in wh
she spoke as though guns ha
been fired as if to sub massac
experiment under way again, a
was just at time of Moslem fu
She said troops were being sent
towards Van again. But seems
me I spoke of this in my last to
We may see at Clifton Springs & C
thence on to Mass.

With cordial greetings -

Hastily &c. R. M. Cole

P.S. The Chys sent their last fro
Bitlis and I did mine to the
at the hands of J. N. Monahan
N. B. M. Vice-Consul, Bitlis

Bitlis
March 20. 1898.

475

Dear Mr Cole

Your letters from Alepo and Scanderun came in last Sabbath, and we are glad that you have reached that point in safety.

In your letter to me I note the remarks regarding money and will attend to the matter.

The main part of your letter I consider a lot of nonsense.

Yours
Chas. R. Ashdown.

Need not return. Destroy it.
R. M. Cole.

Rev. James L. Barton D.D. Oberlin, O. May 16. 1898

5-18-98
20

476

Dear Dr. Barton:

Many thanks for yours of the 7th inst. and all the kind wishes expressed therein.

I note your desire to hear from Bitlis and your question as to how Mr. Ashdown is doing. In view of this and as a confidential perhaps I might as well enclose the only letters I have had from him since leaving Bitlis - leaving you to make your own inference after I tell you that my "nonsense" was my regret that he didn't feel to try and get along better with B. Pasha - being brought to this from the fact that he had to telegraph me at length and I reply from Alexandretta at considerable expense to the Board - all of which might have been regulated by his seeing the Pasha, most likely.

Possibly I have written you that he felt the Pasha slighted him on New Years by not calling when he did on Consul and me, and so he refused to call on the Vali.

I was most cautious not to come against him while there, treating him courteously by receiving him to my table for some five weeks & boarding his servant as well out in the kitchen - all with no charge.

I did try by greatest care to make some limit when he persisted in whitewashing and painted at Mrs. Knapp's expense her house I had just had whitewashed for the Consul some two months only before. But I can

Yours Sincerely N. Marsh Cole

opposite paper.

he had no wish for advice or hints even, & so the Elys have found it. They wished I might see you for a talk on the situation, as they didn't wish to write about it, even though he drove ahead in his own way, as though they were not in the same house. But it does seem a pity to trouble you with such matters, we meanwhile hoping that he will be brought into better shape at annual meeting if they are to have one. Dr. Barnum wrote me Mardin had voted against it. Unless some of the older missionaries can be present there may be danger not so much good will be realized. The Elys send us brief letters almost every week, they feel the weighty responsibility when Mr. A. takes such a course. You may learn from him (and it is to be hoped he does write you) that he was about to move out of the house leaving the Elys all alone three times - Apr. 16th - While there I begged him not to think of leaving them thus till Miss Knapp arrived but where we should be nearing there, but he made no reply, as is his custom, and moves right on in his own way. However, we hope for something better in view of the coming meeting and I might not have troubled you only that you asked. We think some of going to Clifton Springs meeting & then move on your way. Thanks, we have special rates on R. Rs by favor of your testimonial. I am feeling quite well

and my face is steadfastly set towards Elm. Disliking retracing this desire as being back at my target before now years - the

Rec. R. M. Cole

Stark N.H. July 20/98
7-23/98
25

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton;

Seems to me I have not acknowledged receipt of yours of 10th ult. enclosing quotation I made from Dr. Reynolds letter. We overtook us are reached this place.

We are having delightful times as a family among our friends (mostly farmers) in these parts, and we trust gaining strength to turn to work in Turkey.

You did quite right to retain copy of what I sent you to be used confidentially, as you suggest. At least I don't think Dr. Reynolds would object.

By the way, I am desirous of knowing what action was taken as to Mr. A's attitude on matters generally, and what the scope of his delegation and result thereof - I much hoped he would go on to

and meeting so as to be benefited
I have had not a word from
since the note I sent you, and
indeed the ladies write very bri
they being so much under the sp
of the situation as not to dare to
anything in particular. I learned
through Mr. Knapp that preacher
Arpean (& teacher Jaimpish so say
both of Moush, who have been
in prison) he only was out of
prison while that noble graduate
of B. Sch. so long a most faithf
and valued teacher & bible read
lingers in confinement because
a composition of one of her pupils
long since. tho' has fallen into
Gov't's hands.
In view of all you may have
learned from the Em meeting
and from Messrs. Andrus and
Dr. Raynolds the delegates, as also
from the Ely sister what is your
impression of the future for mi

as a missionary — how would
u like him for an associate,
I may put it in that form.
ng friends consulted me in
ssing through as to my idea
one or two coming out to help
s without money & without price.
hat would you think of my sug-
ting that a doctor — perhaps lady —
issionary in spirit & life — being
ady to go on with us in nov. to
ke charge of the health of orphans, &c.
haps helping some in outside work
the field, touring, &c. — A man would
better but would cost them more
nd a lady might more easily fill
place and could live right in with
lady teachers nicely while a man
uld not be so easily cared for.
heartily approve action of the Em
eting as to the B. missionary house
estion — feeling our Board should
ot put much more money into
ilding in that land under the

condition of things.
It is possible cheap excursion rates may enable me to run down to call on you ere we return from Burlington Vt. to Oberlin, but not possibly can sail from Boston last of Feb. to see you.
Our address for the next month will be as at head of this sheet.
Our son from N.Y. is with us "we are seven" and having a pleasant visit here & there.
Hastily &c.
R. M. Cole

8-2-98
3

478

Stark, N.H.
July 30, 1898

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
My dear Dr. Barton;-

Many thanks for yours of twenty fifth inst., which we have read with much care, as well as reflection on the situation at Bithis. The information you give respecting Mr. Ashdown's resigning is not unexpected. He is one over-wise considering his years and experience, to say nothing of other peculiarities that must militate greatly against his usefulness.

In view of such things and the fact he has bounded in his resignation I should think the acceptance of it the only course to take, and any constituency of the Board he may influence to say stuff in Canada should not be offended when they understand the case. No one should wish to hold such a man out in Turkey "to throw his life away;" let him have the open door of all Canada and America! It is not too much for some of us to cast in our lot with work in Bithis-

As to his packing up and coming right away, as you hint, it would all the better on some accounts, but I don't feel in condition to advise this point. How would it do to leave point subject to the approval of the sistin, and possibly of Dr. Raymond and Mr. Andrus, who were, as you know, delegates of the mission in Bitlis matters. You could send the care of the Elys your letter to Mr. Ashdown suggesting his passing over the treasury to the Elys, but giving them option to hold it till they might hear from Dr. R. and Mr. A. — by telegraph, if you chose, saying, 'we approve', or some such form as you might arrange.

Of course, under ordinary conditions, he should hold on till a missionary replaces him to take charge of the treasury. But so far as comfort for the Elys goes he might as well be out of town, since he persisted in moving away from their house leaving them alone for all I strongly dissuaded him from it while I was there.

But really can't we do something
etter for Bitlis than this, and at
nce. There should be more than
ne family in B. seems to me, Mr
., not withstanding, and probably
ou would say the same. Why
ot think once more of that Mr.
ichardson, or Mr. Machlin, late of
almas station, western Persia, if
e Knapps are not to return. Mr.
. I happen to know, thinks of chang
ng his pastorate farther west, near
a brother; so he might be ready
o start very soon. But if not he
hen Mr. Machlin has Armenian,
ut Ararat dialect, and has had
ome years experience in Persia.
We met him at Clifton Springs
meeting and were well pleased with
im. He longs for the missionary
work, but the Pres. Board had to
give up that station for want of
unds. I have good reason to believe
hat we could start either one of these
men off on very short notice, while
he family could go along with us
later if necessary.

Now think the matter over and
you're inclined to consider either
the men, why not make quick work
and have him on the ground by
Sept. closes, so Mr. R. can step down
and out of the place where he is thro-
ing his life away.

Of course none of us E. T. missionaries
believe the Board should invest
money for him a house and let
so limited to him before leaving
The Board's treasury and the condition
of things in Turkey, should lead him
to move slowly in having more
real estate in hand; I should have
written you as much only I fear
what would be the result of his irre-
regular procedure in calling on the
Coms. for such an outlay.

But pray don't think of having
go back to those weighty duties.
Of course the R's have a better lan-
than the Mechlins. Mr R— has
about as much Turkish as Armenian
ian, while he and wife (the latter
from long experience in a Church

business house) are well up in keeping accounts. Still considering past experiences of the Rs in the mission you may deem it wiser to consider the Machlins. Dr. Reynolds saw not little of them in Salinas in trips he has made through there to Oroville, and seemed to have a pleasant impression of them. But our associate at Ezroom for sixteen years, Miss O. Van Duzee, has been associated with them in Salinas, and per her late letter to Mrs. Cole, should reach this country in a few weeks, and we could gain from her a fuller opinion than yours officially quite likely.

As to a house for them, Mr. G. P. Knapp's is in our hands till the coming Easter, and though having but three rooms besides the kitchen, it should answer very well for the Ms, who have only one daughter 8 or 9 years, though the Ms have several. Mr M's address is, Rev. John Machlin, Middleport, N. Y. He is sup-

plying a church there. Of course you have Mr. Richardson's adde of Grand Haven, Mich.

We also met at Clifton, a Mr Harriet J. Hudbury, lady teacher from Oroomiah. Her American addr is Oneida, 15 Belmont Ave. N.Y. if you should come to enquire lies as to the Mrs. for she m know them well.

As to Mr. Q's outfit, seems to m he drew the usual amount of money but they had spent it of it when I left though they h themselves most freely to anything the Knapp's left in the house, an have some of our things as also bought from B. market.

As for re-outfit for us, we hope we might get along with as litt as possible. Neither my wife nor myself have had writing desks s we were burnt out in Erzroom ye ago. But certainly an absolute ne essity for me is a first class type write that will turn of forty to fifty clear co

I wonder if those you use at the Rooms would fill such a bill, or what would be your advice on the matter. So much writing the past few years has given me writer's cramp that troubles my hand not a little in holding the pen.

With cordial greetings from Mrs Cole and myself

Very sincerely

R. M. Cole

479

Groveton, N.H. Aug. 18th

James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Many thanks for yours of 3d inst.
to Mr. Ashdown the Ely's wrote me he had passed
resignation & mission stated Clerk & sent you copy.
Ely's might about as well be alone apparently. He
gone off 8 hours distance for 2 mos. outing "to
away from natives", as the Ex. quote him. He comes
from and started out on his one tour Monday Sunday!
Ely's can do nothing about for all natives come
them about it; nor would he listen to any one since
seems "to know it all" - no experience needed for him!
should be some one there to be more out
soon as possible, seems to me.
have written Dr. Dewey as per your suggestion,
ugh leaving in Oct. as we plan to do, there is
ddy time to bring the Richardson or Mechlin
e before the mission in regular course.
Mr. Mechlin also has the language (Armenian) though
so-called Ararat dialect, the same as our
ts in Russian part of our field use, but it is
ly understood by us all - its chief feature
g that it ends in oom (pronounced o, in place
of pronounced o for instance) for the verbs.
must the Com^ee will not desire me to go back

to carry those heavy duties all alone a go
I have been too much that way both at
and Bitis already, though if I had realiz
how Mr. Ashdown would develope I think I mi
have held on, but should done so at pre
of breaking down utterly.
If Mr. Knapp's case cant be settled
B. I dont see why he couldn't be se
right on to Hpt and let us know that D
Usher for the time being at least. If he i
right material for a missionary physician h
ought to be equal to such an emergency.
I am much afraid the Ehys will break d
under such trying conditions tho comfort
the so-called associate. Prompt action is m
called for for those noble workers. The elder
sister, Miss Charlotte Ely, was poorly this last
I never saw such lack of gallantry to ladies as Shown Mr. A.
Thanks for your suggestion as to typewriter. &c.
Our address till the 25th is Pattenville, (West Litt
N.H.; the following week "192 Woodlawn Ave. Sarat
c/o Mrs. Alida J. Cole", (my widowed sister-in-l
following which it will be Oberlin, O. again, as m
We pass down the Ch. River R.R. to Greenfield, Mass. whe
Fitchburg & Saratoga Cub possibly I may turn there
Boston for a call. Hastily, &c R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole
Grove, Aug. 18. 1898

rth days of the Cole children

rank N. Cole June 8th 1880
ellie A. Cole Dec. 8th 1882
lice H. Cole Apr. 1st 1885
ary L. Cole July 1st 1886

---

ear Dr. Barton:
I see Mr. Chambers, our
. S. M. stated Clerk has set
own our Frank as being
0 years old, at Our meeting,
nd who knows, but he has

made mistake in some
of the others as well
Hence I pass on the
list for correction if n
be, as you may prefe
accuracy as you b
the mission Estimate
before you at no dist
day.

R. M.

Saratoga
Sept 2. 1898

9-6-98 480

Saratoga, N.Y. Sept 3/98

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Safely thus far on our way to Oberlin - we taking a few days to visit with a "sister-in-law" of mine here.

I had frank talks with Mr. Knapp and while he does not talk "vindication" or any "point of honor" in the matter of his return to Turkey, he seems to prefer decidedly to wait over till Spring, more especially as he feels it is too late to think of taking his family on before winter. Meanwhile this may give time for Dr. Raynolds to express himself as to whether he would like him though at present his preference seems to be for a doctor associate.

When I spoke with you I may not have said that we are thinking seriously of taking back with us to Bitlis our "baby" though she has passed her 12th birthday (the 10th of July) feeling all things considered this may be best. She is young for one of her years at - Lackamen to mamma at least to be left, while it would be hard for little mamma to

go without her for all: she does not admit that side of the question.

Not long after the journey to Oberlin is over we must try to fix upon our particular day of sailing and the port from which, whether N.Y. or Boston. I had a little talk with Mr. Wiggin on this point and he recommended the Transport Line to London, my College classmate, Thomas Smith from Ceylon (whom with his wife we had the pleasure of meeting at Northampton) said they came on a new very nice line for £10 sterling.

With pleasant memories & our writing with you friends at the Rooms,

Yours very cordially

R. M. Cole

P.S. Late letter from Bittis. The Elys were in fair health. The Ashdowns had been 16 days at the lake shore. They (Elys) and the people, at the hands of Bu Khaching, their Bittis preacher, speak very longingly for our speedy return. We must try to be there by Xmas at least. C.

Cambridge, Oct. 9th 78

9-13-98 481
21

Oberlin, O. Sept. 10. 1898

Rev. James L. Barton;

Yours of 8th inst. at hand.

Yes, thanks, we arrived here safe & sound this last Tuesday, and feel much benefited by the summer, though a bit of reaction from being tired comes in after so much journeying.

We found many letters coming about the same time from Bitlis most of them from native workers. The Elys here finding the heat of town severe. If but the Ashdowns had done as the rest of us have, & as the consul did for a little time - gone to our resort, 600 feet higher than town & not three miles away, the Es could also have had a change with them in better air.

The Elys feel not a little depressed that their old graduate, Dampish Sosay, was again sent back from Bitlis, where she was brought for another examination, to Mosul under sentence for 1½ years imprisonment, all because of some worthless composition one of her pupils wrote on a time. They wondered if in our coming via Constpl I could not do something for her there. Still Mr. Peet will do all in his power - more than I could most likely. Sosay was one of our most worthy workers, and it is terrible to think of her imprisonment so long under such blighting conditions. They plan her ruin.

Referring again to our Mamie's case you speak as possibly doubtful, I might perhaps say that she pleads to go back and her make up is such that it will be particularly hard for her to be separated from her mamma while it is to be hard, too, for the latter to leave all her children behind when hitherto she has always had some of them at least with her. M. has been a bit puny tho seems pretty well now though would take on a stronger physique, one would think from such horse back riding within good air. As I talked to Mr. Wiggins, and as is our habit, we should go second class on steamer of Atlantic at least if better steamers and do so on steam cars over the seas. And in most cases she might go half fare, as has been the case this summer & once for nothing, as we were a large party. She would be no little help and comfort to her mamma who is not so very strong. Still we must not press our case over much feeling sure as parents themselves the Com^ee as well as yourself will wish for the best thing to all concerned. I take it you received the list of our children's ages.

With cordial greetings from us both.

Yours as ever,

R. M. Cole

9-16-98
21

Oberlin, O. Sept. 14, 1898

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Many thanks for your kind invitation that I attend the Board meeting at Grand Rapids. I hope, too, Mrs. C. may be present as we both have the clergyman's certificate that gives us almost half rate. I am leaving to-morrow evening to go on as far as Wash. (Walla Walla) to visit my dear sister Rev. Mrs. N. F. Cobleigh who has been very ill & whom I have not seen for eight years. But I hope to be on time at Grand Rapids and shall be happy if I can contribute anything of interest to the meeting. I suppose those to speak may know pretty early & on much time will be allowed them so they can plan accordingly. As we are not of the particular kind but can sail over the big pond second class or if cheaper steamers 1st perhaps we need it book with Mr. Higgins till after the meeting when we shall meet there. My old college classmate Thomas S. Smith from Ceylon told me they came from London straight for New York on the Wilson and Furness Layland "S.S." Line Capt. Marshall for only 10 guineas and first class - they having no 2d class - and said it was excellent. Their pier is on the Brooklyn side. It does not matter so much whether we sail from Boston or N.Y. though we should like to come to Boston to see friends & the sister es-

pecially. Mr. Higgins spoke of a transportation line running from Boston to London that was good too.

Should you wish to reach me by letter during the next week it should find me at Walla Walla, Wash. c/o Mrs. N. F. Cobleigh.

And so Uncle Sam is sending war ships over into Turkish waters if Crete be such. We shall see what sort of back-bone is displayed this time by our Gov't!

Nothing particularly new from Bitlis. Mr. A's only note to me was the one you saw and yet he has been called an associate! The Chys were having a hard time & suffering from hot weather. Was glad to get letters from our chief teacher in B. sch. who was spending vacation at Mogounk, near Moush, where Tamelus bro. of his is in charge of our Sassoun branch orphanage; and they speak of much success in that sch. the children were well & happy though Pampish Sosay teacher of girls' sch. in M. is sentenced to 1½ years imprisonment! Now very, very sad this is for us all. God be with her! The teacher goes back to take his place in B. sch. again and plans beginning to drill the pupils in a special song of welcome to us! I shall caution him against over much demonstration these times.

With cordial greetings till we meet in the West. R. M. Cole

Received Sept. 1, 1898

Rec'd 10-12-98 483
Ans'd Σ1

Oberlin, O. Oct. 10. 1898

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Trusting you arrived home in good condition as did we here Satj' eve I would like to suggest that we Mrs. C. Mary L (of 12 years July 1st) and I need to be booked for trip eastward leaving Boston or N.Y. on or about the 29th inst. As I have written Mr. Wiggin (who is alway at his office though you may happen away for outside work) more fully feeling confident you confer together since your offices are so near.

The Bairds seem to have had a quick passage over on the Lucania of Cunard line going 2d class. Our preference would be 2d class on fast, safe steamer than 1st on slow ones as it is not the best season for the Atlantic.

Feeling confident you and Mr. Wiggin would confer together I need not speak at greater length as to booking for steamer. We would quite as soon sail from Boston if the steamers thence make as good time and to London direct for reasons stated to Mr. Wiggin.

Sincerely R. M. Cole

10-25-98

Oberlin, O. Oct. 21, 1898

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Herewith I send you our "shades", which may be an improvement on the old ones left in the Pkam at the Rooms in that it is up to date. As you know we are to sail from N.Y. by "S.S." Lucania of the Cunard Line next week Satly, the 29th inst. I plan to come over by cheapest and quickest route (probably by Fall River Steamer) to say good by to a sister in Everett and to some other friends and to have a few more words with you friends at the Rooms. Shall expect to arrive Wednesday a.m. and spend two night with my sister and return Thursday night. Miss Mary Ely, as you may know, brave little woman that she is, has been touring our Mound region in company with our Bitis preacher, and did much to encourage the poor neglected people. Though somewhat tired these last days we feel very well for facing eastward. Thank you, by the way, for your kind reference to Grand Rapids meeting & the humble part in it he served. I sent on a/c of expenses supposing he was the one, and it is with him but he seems to have forgotten to remit it last time. my Wiggin

Hastily &c R. M. Cole.

fraternal
not official
with fur other
non-official
hapes

Rev. P. M. Cole
11-21-98 485

1 Queen's Sq. W.C.
London, Nov. 9. 1898

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton;

Here's our greetings from
ld England! We came over in just
days and 8½ hours by the Sudania
Cunard Line - a good, quick boat.
Rushed through customs in ½ hour (the
ficial only making a pretense (after
e had said we were missionaries in Tur-
y and didn't deal in the "weed" or "drinks")
opening, rather looking into one corner
a steamer trunk after after, I hastily
s is my habit in such a case) opened
myself as if I challenged them to make
orough work of it, and in less than
ur hours more we were in Euston sta-
n here at London.

ix days and a half into London from
Y. I count pretty good doing, while
this transport Line it would taken

Eleven at least and some $40
more than our second class in Sucan
that served us very well.
I am sorry, however, that we seem in
a week's longer delay than planned
as there are no suitable boats fro
here Liverpool or Manchester
economy in fare and time on
to say nothing of safety or comf
Meanwhile we are not idle the
not a few of the friends of our oppo
and evangelistic work calling on
for closer contact with the work and
good hope for financial results. Prof
Harris was among the callers, and we
to get out and see him this A.M.; a
also the evangelist Mr. Millard has ju
been in and hopes to call again next we
There seems doubt if the trained nurse
will be ready to come on at present
But I shall write you further on fr
they have been talking up with us
a missionary aid scheme by which
may send out other workers at their exp
I send this hasty note to report health
good spirits. Hastily, &c. - R. M. Co

Monday 21st inst. Safe before the Gibraltar coast and to finish off again this P.M. Splendid weather still, and we are well as are our fore-tarried Bitty home and hearts, this is a high old clergy-man aboard the Captain turned to the missionary & read the service today.

S.S."Thor "Tabor", Bay of Biscay, Oct. 18/98.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

It may not be out of place that I should take a little time in reporting to you how we are getting along toward our eastern home though the distance wanes slowly, as now appears to us.

Though I wrote you from London somewhat discouragingly, feeling we were to be not a little delayed there for want of a suitable steamer, but a little later I was able to hit upon one that was off nearly a week earlier than I feared--we embarking at Liverpool on the 15th inst.

Our so-journ of a week & two days in London & Cambridge was a good thing for our whole cause, whether orphan or missionary, apparently. I was able to call upon Mr. Essery, who is ever so much interested in our evangelistic as well as cause of orphans

We called together on the "Friends of Armenia" at 47 Victoria st. S.W. and give some suggestions as to that branch. They, too, have been helping our orphanage cause. We had most delightful calls by previous appointment from the evangelist Mr. Millard and a Mrs. Crosfield, Hon. Sec'y of Volunteers to help us out in our arduous work in Turkey, whatever we Missionaries might point out for them to do. Both they and Mr. Essery are much interested in this feature of a new enterprise, and we hope for not a little good from it.

We passed part of two days and a night out at Cambridge with Prof. and Mrs. Rendel Harris --finding delightful society with them, for all they

belong to the "friends" organization. For all they have helped us so lib liberally while we were there they assured us another 275 Turkish liras to start out the new year with, in the orphanage cause, and much more than paid our three fares up over that 70 miles. Had there been more time it would have been service to the cause if we could staid on longer.

We had planned to take second class on this steamer, though having some misgivings, since we could learn little of this "Moss Line" of steamers. But on reaching Liverpool (by 3d class) I found the First class alone had reserved a place for us--the other cabin being full. But on seeing how dirty and uninviting the cabin, I came to the conclusion that it might have been a uninviting cabin, I came to the concluded there must have been a Providence at work in shaping our ends.

It is hardly a line I should recommend, certainly for second class. Of course all these Med. sea steamer crook about not a little--not the way to make time, of course.

As the weather has been thus far, however, the trip from Liverpool has been very restful-- we having almost a sea of glass and that too right through the ill-reputed bay of Biscay from which we emerged some hours ago. Truly we may sing "Thus far the Lord has led us on". It is just like Him to treat us so. Praised be His name!

If I may be permitted to send you such an imperfect scribble as this of my first efforts of the first day's attempt on my new Blickensderfer typewriter, I may post it from Gibralter, D.V. within the next two days, more or less. With greetings from Mrs. C. & me as we "Eastward, Ho!" permit me to say Good night! By the way, I must not forget to say that trained nurse did n't materialize for want of a suitable candidate, tho they hope to help us later on.

Sincerely R. M. Cole

On Board Steamer Sept 18, 98

Rev. J. M. Cole,

487

Tarsus, Dec. 27th 1898

Dr. Barton,

1-30-99

This is our 31 day here where
have changed caravans, might
we pushed on to-day but it would
r brought us to a suitable place
r the Sab. rest so concluded to have
us. to take another day of rest here
Dr. where we have been very kindly
ertained by Bad Tomas late of Tar-
n though now dragoman of this
g. consulate for nearly two years.
ve had good weather & successful
urney thus far up from the coast nearly
the time and it is still pleasant
ugh ground was white with snow next
orning after we reached here. Had a
ry Sab. I speaking twice on the Sab.
s much more occupied the Sab. at Cui
& spoke twice at Antab. We leave in
morning and hope to be in B. before
k of Prayer has far advanced - per-
ps by next week Tues. or Wed.
e "hot heads" seem determined to stir things

up there again. Two affairs have
taken place there within a few
Miss Mary Ely's card to us at Cairo
for said "had been disturbances
that they were well". A man recently
arrived from there tells how in the
affair two were killed in B.V 25 wo
ded - all xns of course - and how a reg
lar battle raged between "hot heads" and
a village 1½ from away V.J. soldiers
Kounds, cannon figuring in the campaign
Since then something more has happened
though not much we trust, for this mo
bro. writes him this post in way that
shows something has taken place
He is much discouraged about
and thinks there is little hope of improv
We are very sorry the ladies have bee
so alone & fear they have been frightene
We heard at Beyrout, by the way, th
the Ashdowns were "doing Palestine
They made strange impressions on
way down. He would openly show
dislike of the A. race but praise the
called his men such names but
in presence of Bad. Tomas they

the calls it "blasphemy" - showing
uch anger, so that I rather took
m up for it but only to receive
cutting rebuke "Are you too one of the
pil of the Americans". "Yes" said
pastor "I am glad to boast of that". He
has not written a word back to the
dies at B. and never scratched a
d to leave for me at least about
ys he left at Alexandretta this
told a native he should take.
ll, he has graduated from Missions
d seems to have a hatred for Ameri
n missionaries & the people they came
preach the gospel to!
n this confidential note I am going
ll you what I have also Dr. Bar-
m of HPV in my letter to-day,
s I believe a missionary from
r Mardin should be on the
und here these times. There is di-
sion among the people - Bad. Hope
igns & this large block has no
dcher after Jan. 1st. At the same
e it looks as though German
therans had ~~[illegible]~~ jumped at the

work of this place being held only by
the tip of missionary fingers, as a p
tense of setting up an independe
mission. Their Pastor Bahnisch, w
& babe are here since Oct. and t
ladies are to arrive this week bef
I wish Mr. Browne & Miss Bush w
be here for several weeks at this t
Things don't seem to me right & o
missionary supervision should be had, in my opi
This is my snapshot opinion on
brief observation I have had & I p
it on in case thy future becomes u
clouded here in this work as in thy p
It is a very important center & in
esting looking people but they need g
nine especially at this time. Bad. H. d
to do little or no pastoral work among
I drop this hasty note to you from thy
point fearing he may be much hom
capped up in B. If he will under
words reverse them or give opposite m
ing & perhaps some time may need to read
it all or try it in front of a mirro
We are refreshed by this rest and sta
feeling very well for remainder of o
long journey. Cordially from
all. Hastily, &c R. M. C.

P.S. 11th this did not get off last Sat. as did the two last time. O. received the bulletin of Sat. as did the pre-vious one at Bir. Their Sunday two days later, was able to write with Mrs. J. Meetings that have been unusually well at-tended & much more ordinary interest. We are greatly encouraged with calls from people at well like the northern Christians. Many calls on the chief officials that only last year would not receive us. Now their attitude is much more respectful. Salaam & Greetings from Nestily, Yours, R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Turkey in Asia, Jan. 32, 1908.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:

Home again after our long wanderings over sea and land! We arrived this date after a successful journey up overland of just two days less than a month. Believe I wrote you from Diarbekir where, in changing cars, we were delayed three days one of which was the Sab. when the ground became white from a fresh fall of snow that left, however, about as soon as it came. All the way over the D. plain peasants were busy plowing their fields, tho it froze nights. Some of our stages were long in time, so slow was the caravan-one day Mrs. C. & M. being in the cramped moffans a whole eleven hours!

You doubtless remember the Batman river whose very name means "flounder". Had we realized there was a bridge four hours above, we would have insisted on taking the longer route & so saved fording the naughty stream! Considering that our moffans went through all right, however, I suppose we should hardly speak of the fact that two of our trunks with the horse "batmished" into a sand hole and got all wet, and more especially when we saw how the load of another horse & he were carried a hopelessly down stream! We must be patient over spoiling of our goods. Of course you have been over all that region & have no need that I treat of it and its roads, and how one is deceived by seeing As. looking like As. for all the world-they only knowing that language.

The road is built in places up the gorge, and we got along fairly, only having to do with snow the last 15 miles before reaching here.

But I have sent to friends a few articles on the march up that may reach the Rooms, should any care to glance at them. In tired & overwhelmed from callers, questions that have been pending, etc., the most I can do this time is to report health and safe arrival, while impressions must rest over awhile. Of course the ladies left in their loneliness were overjoyed at our approach, and the Misses Ely sent a special messenger a whole day out with their notes of greeting, and with something substantial for the inner man. The ladies themselves, with a large delegation from the people, met us a long distance out & brought us into town a la Orient and altogether such a royal reception was given us as we had not looked for these times - the the pupils of the schools and orphans singing three specially prepared songs of welcome that our chief teacher had prepared. But of these things I may speak more fully later on, asalso respecting the work at large. Mr. Asndown left not a scratch of his pen for us tho he knew we were coming over the same road that they took, tho I am very sorry to say he has left his trail behind, as painful reheasals of natives poured into our ears en route & here, indicate; but this I leave for the present. May all that think they stand take heed lest they fall!

As perhaps I wrote you, it seemed best to consult with our Circle before taking action respecting the Richardsons, and the very strong letter from Miss Knapp on the subject that I quoted from in writing you from D., looked discouraging in that line, and we know not what to do. I had thought perhaps this on miss K's part might mean that she feared her own Bro. might be shut out, but Miss Mary Ely seems to think he would not take his family back to this country tho he did n't say so to me in America. We shall see what is the will of the Lord in all these things.

Dates 1 Nov. 30, 1899

L1 4-3-9 5489

Missionary Observations and Impressions.

Hitherto we have entered Anatolia from the Black Sea at Trebizond, but this
we strike up the country from Alexandretta at the north-east corner of
s Mediterranean; ~~at~~ Not to dwell upon the journey that has been treated
another connection, I address myself to observations, etc. of persons and
of places we pass through en route for Kourdistan.

Leaving Dec. 6th. one would think winter weather & snow must be our portion.
~~so~~ Far from it; away down the coast at Alexandria, Egypt, it was so hot the
dies were using their sun-shades & dressing much like July in New-York.
~~to~~ Here it is mild, and most of the way up it is pleasant weather with no
to speak of till within a day of Bitlis & that not enough to trouble.
int, sort of pre-historic, or antedeluvian methods of travel, may be expected
his antiquated country, but whether springless wagons, mafans (panniers-) ~~in~~
ule, or foot we old travelers in the land are sure to get along, and that,
, with ~~little~~ no such doleful rehearsals ~~we have of the~~ as from tourists over this
e road, and with much better & more expensive provision against haruship.
h I called at large, flourishing Aleppo & sleepy old Antioch on my way
n last Tue. both of which places escaped the sad events of '95. We leave
m on our right this time, aiming for Aintab, Oorfa & Diarbekir, which are
this land model towns of the Interior, tho all suffered heavily in '95.
tab is a beacon light in educational lines-there being included the med-
l & orphanage work as well. Prest. & Mrs. Fuller of the College were just
k from much needed rest in England. His assistant-future Prest. in prospect
is a Mr. Merrell, a fine young man, son of my sch.-mate Dr G. R. Merrill of Chicago, as I learned. All
workers of the missionary force in A. have won an enviable reputation.
The same may be said with emphasis of the brave ones that are holding Our
"of the Chaldees", one of them being the well-known heroine of dark '95.
e from the remarkable work these ladies have in hand ten Germans have es-
tablished their colony there in order to gather more ~~massacre~~-orphans,
set going, as they have done, a fine rug-factory to furnish employ for the
sacre-widows; also a similarly, unfortunate men-there being nearly 100 in all.
Eng. Blue Book gave the sad story as to the event here, and we stood in a
tomb-like old church that in its desolation seems sitting in sackcloth &
s as if refusing to be comforted-no attemp being made to repair it.
~~At~~ Aintab, and some smaller towns we passed through, and especially in
bekir, the poor decimated Armenians show good recuperative power-having
n up their usual avocations with almost a forgiving spiritt-in not a few
s entering partnership with the late devastating race. The character of
t. officials in those localities has much to do with this feature of cours
et with some such officials & heard others spoken well of for the time.
arbekir is one of the finest cities & is the best walled of any in Turky.
re is an interesting Prot. work here-the large congregation worshipping in
of the finest churches of the Interior, the funds for which were raised b
late Vice-consul Boyajian, once pastor of the church. More than 200
ans who have been gathered by Americans of Harpoot & Germans newly arrived

and the enterprise seems prosperous. Suitable houses for such have been found, high & spacious, which cannot be said of those found in most Turkish houses.

Thus far & through the country we are impressed with the fairly manly, independent bearing of Armenians; but from here on, and especially as we enter the Kourdish Mts., timid, cringing deportment begins to appear. They speak with bated breath lest some one hear & bear their words away to make trouble. Some of them of them have been so long under extortion they have lost their mother-tongue, if not religion, and follow the beck & nod of the oppressor. Though formerly fairly well off, and happy in their own homes, they now sit in desolated hovels, if they are not vagrants on God's earth-having no possessions.

But what of veritable Kourdistan, whose nominal capital might be called Bitlis? So far as fanaticism goes, most religions run to extreme-reductio ad absurdum! Here are Dervishes that in their way outdo the whirling ones at the Capital; — in howling, beating their breasts, foaming at the mouth, etc. as they go through their prayers, led on once or twice a week by the tenor drum-beat. During their Ramazan (fast of month consisting of ordinary eating & drinking at night, but abstinence from food, coffee & tobacco during the day) their drumming is so continuous the livelong night it is hard to court sleep, though their thought was more for presents from serenading than the religious phase of it. — Certain of our number, who were here in the main event of '96 are more impressed from fanatical demonstrations, especially if threats are bandied about in market to reach us in exaggerated form. If we are living on a volcano it is better not to think so, but work right on. Discretion be the part of valor's hopefulness has much importance here.

Tho' some knotty questions in our work have arisen, we hope for cheer from too. Teachers & preachers with their people plead for our early visits to help in solving difficulties & toning them up by special meetings for their spiritual life. The people & workers remember with keen appreciation the visit of the English Evangelist, Mr. Millard, last Winter & long to have him come again to help them. Week of Prayer passed with more than ordinary interest, new voices being heard in prayer. — A few members are to be received to the church next Communion.

Our schools are going on with the usual number of pupils, but little tuition owing to the great poverty. Our girls' Sch. at Moush (whose teacher was in "durance vile") is open again—she being in her lot & place after false charges. We are especially encouraged by our work for orphans in Moush vicinity, & at Bitlis. We are pleased to see signs of general progress, as well as growth & health in them all during my absence of ten months, which speaks well for the faithful, unremitting attentions of Miss Charlotte E. Ely, who took my place as Superintendent on my leaving for the brief rest. The dear children pleased us in recent examination in reading, Primary Catechism, recitation of pieces, etc. as well as their choice singing & in the specially prepared pieces used in the enthusiastic reception given us a month since. One little girl with forceps right hand is training her left to do the writing. All of them seem well & happy, liking to make merry as such children should in sliding on lits, sleds, snowballing, etc.

Cordially yours,

Bitlis, Turkey, Feb. 7, 1899.

Private correspondence 490

Bitlis, Kourdistan, Feruary 8th, 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

3-27-99
4-5

Dear Dr. Barton;-

As a matter of business, and pursuant to interest of the Board so taxed in the Ashdown event, we ought, perhaps, make some reference to "Inventory of property of A.B.C.F.M. left by Rev. Chas. R. Ashdown", as indicated in copy of list the original of which Miss Ely sent you. It sums up over $250, or more than T1.57, but would not sell to-day for more than a fourth or third of price attached.

For instance the first article on the list, as you will see, is his and wife's double traveling-bed(!) gotten up that time at Erzroum, which with all its belongings are written down at over $20. Of course that heavy, clumsy bed stead was the disgust of all muleteers for the carrying, and run up the price per head of all the animals. Of course none of us would use such a thing, as you could fancy, and why pay five times what it would sell for to get it up from Alexandria to Bitlis where it would not sell. I left it with Mr. G.P. K's old servant, still a laboring man at that port, to sell. He writes me the best offer he can get for this monstrosity is one mejidieh-not one dollar, and I have answered him to sell it, the price of which nearly goes for storage. So much for that $10 article, and his $18 air mattress will fare in a similar way unless some missionary will give more for what will not last long, as you know, in Turkey climate. The same, or more, might be said of not a few other things, some of which are old & useless but put in at full price, while nearly a score of other things are what they helped themselves to in the Kapp-Ely house, but which are put in to swell the Amt! x

He did sell some of the better things, like clothing, lamps, etc. at cheap rates, taking along the money, while here stands the residue, largely unsalable things rated at their original price; so, pray, how are they to sell! I write thus plainly so you may suggest as soon as possible some course of procedure since when our missionaries pass through here en route for Van Anl. Meeting in May we might effect better sales with proper price affixed, or we will sell at auction, if you think best. We await your orders in the matter.

We have stored the things in our two over-crowded houses to stop expenses and turn over the house he occupied about five months-paying rent for the year T.L.27 & spending pounds besides to set it in order,-and that, too, when Mr. G.P.K's (rented till the coming Easter) and ours were offered him. But there was no house in B. fit for a missionary wife to inhabit, albeit three lady teachers at the other house, and Mrs. C. here 'inhabit' this long length time! Are n't some of us poor sticks & of obtuse tastes!

All in usual health & send greetings,

Hastily, etc. R. M. Cole

x over

P.S. Perhaps I had better not have put in as to that score of things, a they were not of much value, Miss Ely tells me, but I did so to show the t of the man, unless he and wife had a weak memory, and carelessly entered things in List. He had such a strange idea of use of money, deportment be & with natives as would hardly become a sane man, let alone the mission and seems to me the charitable way would be to set it down to a diseased balanced mind in certain lines, to say the least, and leave it there, since man is now out of the problem. You wrote hinting that he advise with th when he took up having formidable Station meetings, but go outside and s how he takes up men & places that have no appropriations-leaving us the now of closing Accts. with such unsuited ones! But enough of this.

Butler, Oct. 8, 99

LETTER FROM REV. R. M. COLE,

Dated Bitlis, Feb. 18, 1899

There is intense poverty both here and in the villages, and we are spending the small amount we have in hand for general relief; also the Armenian Committee is distributing what small funds they have for relief. Notwithstanding this a number of deaths have occurred from hunger and exposure in the city here and in the villages near by. One, Asdovadour, and son, in Makork village, an hour and a half below this city, have perished from starvation. The father and son had managed to keep the wolf from the door until the deep snow came, by gathering brushwood and taking it into town to sell, but when that failed, they both perished, leaving a large destitute family of little children; while there are others in the same oft-plundered village in a similar condition — so much so that we fear to inquire, considering how little money we have in hand for such cases. So many villages have suffered in repeated plunderings of the Kourds etc. that the wonder is the people can live at all.

I learn from the Deacon of our church here in Bitlis, that his own brother-in-law, Simon Avedissian, died from starvation this last week, and his aged mother went in the same way only a few days before.

Simon had been a successful shoemaker in Constantinople for years, but, like thousands of others, was exiled from that city to this, his native city, where for these two years, he has tried to eke out an existance, tho if he got work at all, he could make only a piaster (2d.) a day, in place of living as a master workman at the capital. Not able to pay rent, he had to take up this cold corner and that until death seemed their only portion. I was impatient with our Deacon that he had said nothing to us about it since my arrival from America, so we might have saved them. The Deacon now tells how he kept doing for them, so far as his ability would permit, whenever he knew their special straits. Sometimes he has sought to take up a contribution in the market, but so modest and shrinking was the man, he would put a stop to it if he could.

It seems when his mother was buried, he too was so faint from want of food, it was a wonder two deaths instead of one had not resulted at the same time.

He could not go to the funeral, but only spoke of being ill, while in fact he was on the verge of starvation and died shortly afterwards, leaving a wife and daughter of nine years and a baby boy of seven months.

There are scores of poor creatures in the city, floating about the streets from door to door, so wan and haggard looking; but they have become so numerous that few doors are opened to them.

Can you not send us some relief money? If so, send it by telegraph and we will try to save life.

Rev. R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Feb. 18, 1899.

Rec'd Apr. 5.

Bitlis, March 4th 1899.

4-14-99

r Dr. Earton;-

Only a note to go with the news budget that will let you w we are safe for all rumors that may reach you in exaggerated form, in w of things referred to in the Notes. All seems quiet as usual now, and Govt. gives fair evidence of a determination to keep it so. But poverty terrible, and what we hoped to be spared from after such a brief vacation are already thrust into, as the News shows you. We shall do what we can to e life. Fortunately the winter has been short and mild hitherto, which is reat mercy in such a land. I sent you a copy of Impressions, etc. that ope came through all right, and wish we might do more in line of the Cir-ar of Drs. Daniels & Strong respecting better system of information from fields. We are in usual health & join in cordial greetings,

Very sincerely yours, R. M. Cole

Rev. R. M. Cole

Bitlis, Feb. 18, 1899.

Bitlis, March 4th 1899.

Dear Dr. Eaton:-

Only a note to go with the news budget that will let you know we are safe for all rumors that may reach you in exaggerated form, in view of things referred to in the Notes. All seems quiet as usual now, and our Govt. gives fair evidence of a determination to keep it so. But poverty is terrible, and what we hoped to be spared from after such a brief vacation we are already thrust into, as the News shows you. We shall do what we can to save life. Fortunately the winter has been short and mild hitherto, which is great mercy in such a land. I sent you a copy of Impressions, etc. that hope came through all right, and wish we might do more in line of the circular of Drs. Daniels & Strong respecting better system of information from the fields. We are in usual health & join in cordial greetings.

Very sincerely yours,

R. M. Cole

494 APR 27 1899 MAY 26 1899

493 APR 27 1899 MAY 26 1899

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Bitlis, Turkey-in-Asia, via Constantinople, Mch. 25/99.

Mrs. Charlotte E. Cooper,

4 Akron St. Boston:-

Dear Mrs. Cooper:-

Your kind letter of 12th addressed to Rev. George P. Knapp, -no, not 12th, I see, but Feb. 7th- only reached me at this distant point the 20th inst.; so you see I am not long in starting off something for a reply. Yes, we are back here (Mrs. C. & our daughter of 12 years coming with me) having arrived not till Jan. 3d, which gave me less than seven months in native land, tho my family had been there over two years, resident at Oberlin, O.

Tho my time was so short in the country I was in Boston twice & had I known of you would tried hard to found you for a talk as to our dear orphans but I am too pressed for time to write much beyond what I enclose that will explain itself, tho presenting a sad picture of course as introducing them. If I had time to tell of their progress, in studies & generally, it might, perhaps be quite as wholesome, especially for the young, as so much "blood & thunder" hardly seems the thing. It should be no small encouragement to patrons to have a pen-picture of some examinations in studies, music, etc. we have had with them since our arrival in Jan. Ten of these larger boys are at the shoe makers trade a part of the time, and we think of putting others to trades in the spring, for education in books is at a dicount with the Govt. but a trade helps everywhere, while we push them on in their books also part of the time. We shall have to take in more if we can possibly provide room for them. Our high schools' buildings have served them largely thus far, but in my absence not a few were turned back on the wards from fear of sickness from overcrowding and we much dilike to spend the funds on building if it can be avoided, tho to hire & start up elsewhere not connected directly with our long established Schs. with Govt. permit, is in danger of being closed, as is the case often. We are feeding well on to 2000 persons from the bakeries every day, nearly half of them being fugitives from the villages, and among them are not a few whole orphans in most abject condition, and we should take them into the Orphanage if possible. Heaven have mercy on poor so sinned-against humanity that comes drifting in upon us from every quarter as the roads clear of snow!

Trusting this enclosure will be of some service to you in keeping up the interest in these God's little ones, and that the friends will stand by us, their representatives in this land of so much wrong but of such wonderful opportunity to pour in the oil of comfort in every way as never before.

With cordial greeting, in which the orphans would join,

Very sincerely yours, R M. Cole

Ellis, Marsh 4th 1899.

Rev. R. M. Cole
Rec'd Feb. 18 1900

493

Ellis, Turkey-in-Asia, via Constantinople, Mch. 25/99.

APR 27 1899

MAY 26 1899

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4 Akron St. Boston:-

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With cordial greeting, in which the orphans would join,

Very sincerely yours,

R. M. Cole

494 APR 27 1899
MAY 26 1899

Bitlis, March 25th, 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton;-

It rather seems to me I have n't seen a letters starting your way for some weeks, perhaps not since I sent one that was made mostly of Circulars most likely. But poor as it may be I half fear that did n't come to hand, or at least some of the Cole letters, as in your last to Miss M.A.C. Ely you speak of hearing through hers of our arrival at our home, while by our correspondence record we mailed you one by that same post. Shall be interested in knowing whether it really did arrive. I may again enclose something this time, since I am so pressed for time, and you may find some use for it-you often speaking appreciatively of such. Are up to our eyes in relief work again, having both here & in the villages such abject poverty as we have never witnessed in the land! No money, no credit, no work what is to be expected but that---and death, we might add! and indeed there have already been a few deaths from hunger in town & a near village. Since arriving we have gotten up L.B.310, and there was a little in hand on our arrival, tho the last consul became so disgusted with relief, feeling it was no use to try & save the people but let them die once for all, and so made no effort to get up more funds. We are feeding from the public ovens made we are feeding from the public ovens, well on to two thousand persons now about half being new or ratner old fugitives from the villages. We have already given out to four villages, one being Khoultig of nearly 400 houses, and we plan to distribute to three other not distant villages, and by another party to four villages two days away where report has it a few have starved. Going at this rate in hopes of saving life funds will soon give out & what! Have been trying to get off something for patrons of the orphans also, and perhaps you might care to glince at a copy. It is interesting to see such as Mrs. Cooper of your city, a Unitarian, taking so much interest in this work, and when we were at Clifton Springs a lady came up and introduced herself as So

& So"an Episcopal",as she said,but added"I have long since known & taken an i
terest in you & your work. Such non-sectarian interest is encouraging
For our work proper I am sorry to be so much occupied again in relief,
we have some pretty good native assistants to help carry the details,a
when distress is so great heavy responsibility rolls upon my shoulders
people will force their poor friends forwards,and grit is required to s
"There are others more needy". We have nearly 400 houses on our list th
are relieving from two bakeries here,and are giving out to 15 to 20 nea
villages. A few seem to have starved before we had enough in hand to re
out much in relief. As it is now our some 400 T.L.will give out by Eas
not before. Later.27th.Post in at last,tho almost a week behind becaus
bad roads. Only a note from Mr.Wiggin from your building. I must haste
to post this,as time is up.

Yours very sincerely,

with enclosure

MAY 12 1899
MAY 26 1899
4 95

"Most Honorable and Compassionate Father;-
usting to your well-known forbearance, to your Evangelical condescention &
pecially to your uprightness, as well as pity, we humbly submit the following
As natives of Derzin village, sanjak of S'ert, during the disturbances of
5 the Kouras forced us to change our religion, and for nearly two years we
ived under the semblance of their co-religionists, tho in secret we kept up
ur prayers as Christians, baptized our children, etc.
But little by little the ks began to press their demands in religious mat-
ers, circumcised some of our males both adults & children; they wished our
aughters in marriage, and even gave order that brothers should take their
isters-in-law. Not able to endure these things longer we resolved to risk
ur lives & so fled by night leaving all our cattle, sheep, furniture, etc. if
ut we might be free to worship God according to the dictates of our own con-
ciences. It was thus we came to Bitlis city in 1897. From that time we have
ought such work as was available, but could not have lived only that help
rom relief has been rendered us from time to time. Would that we might have
ough so we eat dry bread even once to a sufficiency! We have no houses, fur-
iture, bedding, etc. We are crowded into dismal, damp, lower-story quarters in
his town where our beds, covering & clothing are the same old "worn-out" rags
e had on our backs when we fled-this & nothing more! Here curled into cor-
ers with no fuel for warmth or candle for light we watch for the morning-
ass the days as if all were Lent-hungry & uncared for, waiting for death!!
he ks of town knowing of us are enemies so we dare not venture out upon the
ts, in search of fuel lest they kill us! Thus we are in straits on every hand
hat are we to do in such conditions to hold our young people we rescued, to
heir faith & our holy religion! Hence in utter sorrow & discouragement we
all at your compassionate feet, and beg that at least you grant us rations
rom the bakeries as you are doing to others." Signed by the chief men.
itlis, March 16th, 1899."

The above is rather a free translation of the paper
ubmitted to me as per date. Of course we at once admitted them to our list,
ut it seemed to me worth while to pass along this their story to patrons
ho are so kindly helping us to fund so we may try to save poor suffering on
hrilling as the above rehearsal may seem there are others among the hundreds
f refugees here whose sad life is little better, while the poor of the city
ho some of them may have a house over their heads are driven to desperation
or their daily bread, with no thought of other than that for their food.
eginning our distributions from the bakeries the 15th ult. we have come up
o having on our list this date nearly 500 houses, or upwards of 2,000 souls,
t an expense of nearly 2,800 Ps. a week. Of course 100 drams or less to a
erson is short allowance, but with greens soon to appear we hope it may ward
f death for the most part as long as our money lasts. We also continue dis-
ribution to other near villages, as also to some two days away, where, too, a
w are thought to have starved. Bitlis, Turkey, Apr. 5/99. R.M.COLE.

Most Honorable and Compassionate Father:-

Acting to your well-known forbearance, to your Evangelical condescention & specially to your uprightness, as well as pity, we humbly submit the following:

As natives of Derin village, sanjak of S'ert, during the disturbances of the Kouras forced us to change our religion, and for nearly two years we lived under the semblance of their co-religionists, tho in secret we kept up our prayers as Christians, baptized our children, etc.

But little by little the Ks began to press their demands in religious matters, circumcised some of our males both adults & children; they wished our daughters in marriage, and even gave order that brothers should take their sisters-in-law. Not able to endure these things longer we resolved to risk our lives & so fled by night leaving all our cattle, sheep, furniture, etc. that we might be free to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscences. It was thus we came to Eltis city in 1897. From that time we have had such work as was available, but could not have lived only that help in relief has been rendered us from time to time. Would that we might have even so we eat dry bread even once to a sufficiency! We have no houses, furniture, bedding, etc. We are crowded into dismal, damp, lower-story quarters in the town where our beds, covering & clothing are the same old "worn-out" rags on our backs when we fled-this & nothing more! Here cuiled into corners with no fuel for warmth or candle for light we watch for the morning-the days as if all were lent-hungry & uncared for, waiting for death!! As of town knowing of us are enemies so we dare not venture out upon the in search of fuel lest they kill us! Thus we are in straits on every hand what are we to do in such conditions to hold our young people we rescued, to our faith & our holy religion! Hence in utter sorrow & discouragement we at your compassionate feet, and beg that at least you grant us rations the bakeries as you are doing to others."

Eltis, March 10th, 1899." Signed by the chief men.

The above is rather a free translation of the paper mitted to me as per date. Of course we at once admitted them to our list, it seemed to me worth while to pass along this their story to patrons are so kindly helping us to fund so we may try to sale poor suffering ones. filling as the above rehearsal may seem there are others among the hundreds refugees here whose sad life is little better, while the poor of the city some of them may have a house over their heads are driven to desperation their daily bread, with no thought of other than that for their food.

Running our distributions from the bakeries the 15th ult. we have come up having on our list this date nearly 500 houses, or upwards of 2,000 souls, an expense of nearly 2,500 Ps. a week. Of course 100 drams or less to a son is short allowance, but with greens soon to appear we hope it may ward death for the most part as long as our money lasts. We also continue distribution to other near villages, as also to some two days away, where, too, are thought to have starved. Eltis, Turkey, Apr. 5/99. R.M. COLE.

Bitlis, via Cons'ple, Apr. 7/99

Rev. James L. Larton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Larton;-

Tho nothing from your pen has come in acknowledgment of various notes & enclosures we have sent you since our arrival, while your late one to Miss Ely gives me doubt if they all reach you, still some one should report to you quite often, even tho they are worth falling out by way. We have succeeded in getting up per Cons'ple T.L.650 since our arrival for relief proper, aside from that of orphans, and are engaged in trying to save life, as you see from enclosures which may be of some use to you. Naturally America has about enough to keep her new populations from starving; and most of it seems coming from Eng. whither I am sending copies of the same.

But this note should, perhaps, be largely given to quotation of Mr. A's servant. He writes me on 3d inst. from Alexandria...."Tho a slave in his hands it is impossible to describe the cruelty (charcharang) to which he subjected me. It would take a long paper. God knows it all. I did n't wish to come with him, but he threatened to betray me to the govr. so I could get no paper to go to the Parmelees at T. where I was invited, and he would write Dr. P. that I was bad so I remain here among the Ts and die (satgetsurneh) like a dog; if you are not to come with us, be off & not let me see your face again, you dog, and I will not give another para (of wages), for you & the whole race are bad, are dogs worthy of the scaffold! etc. When I saw the bad turn things were taking I was obliged to come with him. He told me time & again that if on my papers not passing me round to Treb. I had to turn back to E. from Alexandretta, he would give me 7 Liras, but if I could go round to T. he would pay road expense & 4, and on these conditions we started from E. But Oh the hardship & cruelty of those 22 days down to A.-such as we cant describe! Ten years I have worked as a stranger far from my home but never met such a man,-so cruel, pitiless, ungodly, there being in him no spirit of Christianity. He beat his own & wife's expensive E. horses over the head so that they went blind & only sold in A. for four Liras. On reaching A. he broke his promises made to me in E., paid me only three Liras & two medjidiehs and left me in the steamer that landed me in this strange city with no language or friends. This is the way I have been treated now will you please try to collect my claim of T.L.3.57 of Mr. A. as I am a poor man with family of ten dependent on me & why should I be cheated out of it. The above is a free translation of what I might have sent you to read only it is so terribly written. I write him no hope it can be collected, tho spoke of passing it on to treasr. W. tho wish that my name be not used in its connection to indicate to the man he must have exaggerated, as he talked differently in E however, as Mr. A. lorded it over natives here, calling them dogs, etc. berating the whole race, favoring the Ts in all his deal there is too much truth in it.

In four public addresses-three of them in large or small villages where of the audience were Gregorians-so derogatory of the race that his inter ters shrank from putting it into Armenian. One on knowing he was to rep the E.talk refused to act as interpreter,but was threatened with being missed from employ & so yielded. These are things the interpreters(some our teachers)themselves have told me in conversations,and when I sugges what Hohannes Amrian,his servant,had written,fearing there was much exa tion in it,he seemed to feel much of it was true. I wish you had a spy region to report if he is not defaming the As there also to the injury the Board's cause. The Accts.show he took special pains to take money o rather than As,even tho I had been able to make better rates on our dra with the latter than he with his T.friends,and did n't get on at all wi some As I introduced him to as those I dealt much with & do still.

But why should I open up this Ashdown sore if it be at all healed; b passing on the poor servant's request I have fallen into a little more.

We are in usual health as a circle,but very busy of course. Just at trying time when we need more workers instead of fewer,preacher Khachig this congregation is trying to resign,whether to leave the field or wha not yet evident. I have been talking the people up on coming up to thei most in giving so we might ordain him as pastor over them,and so hold h the work & field all the more. Still we have been conscious he had thou afar off,for did not his Bro.from Sasn.reach A.& collect no small sum came to him,tho said Bro.got consumption on in N.Y.& returned to Tiflis die. Hence Kh.is able to move on if he decides,and conditions are such grit & grace,as well as self-sacrifice to hold on in the land these ti Some say"Why labor to get up money & try to keep the people alive,let t die and get out of this everlasting poverty,hunger & oppression",where have to refer them to the golden rule-'Let it be your wife & child tha wandering barefoot over the snows so hungry & naked would n't you want do something to assuage their suffering? why not then do it for these Thus it is we are sometimes beset from without & within-sometimes our ple being little behind others in their utter discouragement at the si Of course we are in much need of another male missionary to help carry these burdens,and we are quite sure you at those Rooms are not unmindful of From what Dr.Dewey writes me Mr.Richardson has applied for re-appointme for us the Coles we should be willing to accept him,but our ladies(Mis particular)seem clogging the wheels. Doubtless they feel all the stron cause of the Ashdown event. Still I feel all the more afraid lest a ne again be not all we could desire,while we must admit,as I tell the lad that new men are not so likely to come here these times,and beggars mu be choosers. There seems some doubt if there will be a Meeting at Van o case would be aired. With cordial greetings from all, R.M. Co

x Mr. R. writes he has been elected for his present office for another year, which should disappoint Prof. Dewey & Y. C. I. Yours. Nancy B. if not for those

Rev. R. M. Cole,

497

Bitlis, April 15th. 1899.

Rev. James L. LARTON, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Larton;-

Many thanks for yours of 9th. ult., which cheers in that we have seen so little from your pen since arriving that I feared some of my letters were going astray.

Yes, the Ashdown event has passed but left its sting, and not a letter has he sent even the Elys who did so much for them, save one postal from Alexandria-the condition on which they were allowed to push out & leave them all alone.

I note your mention of George Knapp's case. It seems he is engaged for another year in his present employ. We do feel much something should be done in securing us a man, but if he is to be an entirely new man why not let us aim for a doctor? The Parmelees were speaking sometime since of some lady they wished they might have for T., but said she was waiting to see where her medical brother was to be located. I dont recall his name, but you may know of him. What better than for him to come to B. where a doctor is so much needed, and his sister can remain down by the sea, if that be God's will. In any case you will keep B. in mind & for a doctor if that may be.

Yes, we have to admit our churches & people are not up in selfsupport, but they seem to feel it is a "nick&tuck" for life even, as this vilayet is just the worst, etc. But have no more time to write.

Thanks for information as to our adoption by St. Louis, Mo., and the

copy-enclosure will show what I have done in the case, which you care to glance at, following which you might mail to our son, Frederick W.Cole, 120 West 57th.St.N.Y.city. That in regard to relief will show what we are doing in that line & may be called for so Such things may fill in some measure what I should be glad to wr you direct but find so little time. Conditions are such helpers hardly give us complete lists for Lab.Views-prudence even being gainst a poor man's going out to gather fuel on the mountain sid some found there having been run into "durance vile"!

Cordially yours,

R. M. Cole

MAY 26 1899

Bitlis, Kurdistan, April 22d. 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Though I should hardly be writing you again so soon; still as I was sending reports of relief & orphanage work it seemed unnatural not to put in a line. Some one may be asking as to what is being done at B. for orphans, relief, etc., so you may like to have something in the pigeon-hole to turn to.

We are in usual health and up to our eyes in work of course! Spring is opening up-snow nearly all gone, save on the mountain tops. Birds are singing, and green grass begins to lift its head. Would that poor humanity was in condition to gather up and move on as if alive once more! Alas that the revolutionary element in these parts does n't die out, hence conditions are much worse than in other vilayets. Some two weeks since several such fellows enter a village not three days distant, demand attention, money, etc. even when a Govt. guard was in the place. The chief of the place refused their requests whereupon shots were exchanged, one killed & two wounded. The guard, out of fear shut themselves in and refused to come to the rescue, supposing it was robber Kourds. But when the truth became known-that people had been killed, wounded, etc. chief of police with his retinue appear on the scene, beat & frighten two todeath, wound others, outrage women & girls, castrate some men, etc. just as if they innocent parties were responsible for the turbulent fellows being in the village, when really they opposed them to the death!

But why tell these things! Let the Lord rise forth, vain is man.

Cordially from our Trio, R. M. Cole.

Rec'd Apr. 22, '98

JUN 12 1899 499

Bitlis, Kourdistan, May 13th, 1899.

JUN 16 1899

Rev.James L.Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr.Barton;-

Many thanks for yours of the 14th ult.,as also for the enclosure you so kindly sent forward from the Prest.of my foster Soc. in St.Louis. The latter may be considered a bit of tonic,perhaps,to keep one amid what most would call the depressing times in which we live at present. I appreciate the fact of you at the Rooms piloting along that so stirring young Soc'y of the South to adopt me called a veteran of nearly 31 years in Turkey but hailing primarily from the northern part of the old Granite State. From what friends there write me a Bangor(Me.)had in mind to adopt me, but St.Louis seems to have come in ahead; I have written the fact to the friends but hinted that Mrs.Cole was yet in the market for a bid! Let us see what may come of this,if anything. Should you have it in mind on meeting Dr.Daniels would be obliged if you would thank him for dealing so successfully with such a subject-even to the point of securing & forwarding his photograph. We,too, had thought of the interest there might be in that,and a copy was ordered on to the President of the Society from our children at once from O.

Yes,I think we realize somewhat the responsibility of keeping up the interest in such an important young Society; but considering the zeal with which Dr.Daniels & you have espoused the cause we will hope that you busy bees may extract a little sweetness now & then from such flowers as may come from my pen in Circulars,etc.that reach your hand,even if in the great pressure that is upon me alon as I am,~~too~~ I do not send frequent letters direct.

You will have a pretty good hint of the situation from enclosed Notes.It is established by the later news of today,while our Moush preacher writes with assurance of safety,and we trust there may be no more serious affray. I had hoped to go Moush way for important missionary & work of orphans before now but must wait,because of conditions,at least another week for assurance. Though we have no Anl.Meeting we need to get our ladies of the other house out to encampment for achange,since they had none at the hand of Mr.Ashdown last year,and Miss Knapp seems to have some ague hanging about her to trouble. The Coles are up to our eyes in relief,etc.Mrs.C.,with her ready language,being of much service & help of course,while even Mamie(backer of your envelop) may be seen writing tickets,between her lessons'times

Cordially to all,

R. M. Cole

JUL 28 1899

560

Bitlis, May 22d. 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton;-

If I may give no more than briefs these may be of interest under the strained times in which we here are living yet. Last week I reported in Notes some very trying action on part of the agitators. On this last Thursday a disturbance took place in Moush city itself. We are not in possession of reliable facts yet, though our Vali says it was an ordinary quarrel between two person in which two were killed, and that agitators had no part in that. He als reports that a battalion of troops have gone to Sassoun to hunt for arms. Of course reports coming through the people do not correspond with this. Still if the local Governments there and here can succeed in maintaining order so we dwell as safely & quietly as now it is prudent for us to speak well of them. Certainly our two chiefs here seem to be trying to do what they can under trying conditions. With such a prominent man as Talib Ef. killed in the affray at the village near Moush & now the chief of our police here dying yesterday from effects of a wound in the shoulder those same agitators over there gave him, you can well see the conditions as such as to irritae not a little. Of course the danger such times is that the chiefs may not be able to control the ignorant soldiery, and especially the Hamidieh reserves, much as they might wish. Still with no prospect of an order for irregularity from the central Government friends should not feel anxious for us & the people lest another massacre take place From frequent interchange of news with Dr. R. and for purpose of looking in on Khizan regions south-eastern part of our vilayet he Eng. Consul × decided best to come Later. The report of chief police is not true. He is not dead & some say is not wounded at all but sick with prospect of recovering.

The enclosed of relief Report may be of interest to you & possibly to Pilgrim church St. Louis, should you send it on. Excuse the untidy appearance of my page, as my writer ink had has flown out of place a few times-causing blots.

We are all in usual health & send cordial greetings.

Yours as ever, R. M. Cole

× over

P.S. In my haste I see I have not referred to the comfort the new Eng. Consul's arrival here this last Friday, has been to the people generally, and his presence is no small moral support to the chiefs of Govt. in their apparent effort to keep order. He is awaiting instructions as to whether he may push on to Monsia, as this not being within his Consular limits he was allowed to come via Sherbro to look after relief he was helping there. Nearly a score of lives have gone in the mixtures Monsia way, the last one being in it itself; but the unscrupulous agitators, cause all these troubles, would be glad of all the horrors of '95 probably in hopes of making quick work of ending this living-death of the race!

R. M. C.

These mixtures are in the way of my going visit Monsia way as I planned for a tour. Hope it may be safe for next week. Hastily—

Personal.

501

Bitlis, Kourdistan, via Cons'pl July31

Rev.E.E.Strong,D.D.,

Dear Dr.Strong;-

I am taking the liberty of directing this letter to you,as I am sending so much to Dr.B.he must tire of it; besides I recall that you kindly had engravings made of a few photos I passed you and among them was one of Moush city I think,and as I was writing the enclosure for Dr.Barton in part at least I bethought me that if you should care to enter a 'jot or tittle'from that part of Bitlis field,who knows but it might be in order. And may I be pardoned for hinting that friends ask why B.never has a word in the Herald. Of course there are other pens than mine here or it would not become me to speak of this on part of Bitlis field & work. Though not from ambitious motives to appear in print you can well see that it is not easy nor pleasant to answer such enquiries. After all our Circle has & is still trying to carry to the best of its ability just a word now & then in the place where those interested in Missions are likely to look would enlist B's few at least friends,and call out for us & this work prayer & sympathy worth the bit of space,seems to me as also others of our number. Tho they may not dare to make this hint,but I am sure you will excuse me for doing so,which if deemed out of place please cast in the wastebasket,tho I did n't know but the W.B.friends at the other corner of the building might take some interest in the Moush teacher's story if the Elys have n't written it to them. Trusting you will in no sense consider me as finding fault with your work & the attractive-increasingly so-Herald so well managed I have thrown out this hint for what it is worth.

Very cordially yours,

R M Cole

Tues, July 31, '98

502
JUL 20 1899
JUL 28 1899

Bitlis, Kourdistan, June 19th, 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Yours of 26th ult. at hand just as I arrive from my tour of eight days Moush way, and we were glad to get it of course. We note with something of sad interest what you say as to poor prospect of re-inforcement for us from the condition of the treasury. Tho our teachers, and especially Miss Knapp, were so outspoken as to the Richardsons coming here, as I wrote you, still there seems more indication of late that they would yield it on the score he is my associate rather than theirs, and from the fact that if Erz. & Van are in ahead no knowing when our turn would come, while some of us already past the three-score line should be relieved a bit. It being more the province of the ladies of the other house to report their health you will, perhaps, not refer to this part (in the open) in replying, but Miss Knapp has had considerable malarial trouble during the Winter, while Miss Mary has been laid by from duty for nearly a month owing to a sort of malarial fever, as seems, owing to a cold, as she thinks; while her sister need just such favoring as her years & nervousness demand & as Miss Mary gives her when she is round. Miss M. is able to ride out in moffahs for a change. I refer to these things, as perhaps most responsible for the health Bill of the Circle so you may not be ignorant of the situation, while at the same time should it not accentuate the importance of re-inforcement for Bitlis?

Reverting again to the Richardson matter Dr. Thom & Dr. Dewey would favor his return to the field, and I thought Mr. Stapleton of E. would, as his brother at Oberlin spoke so well of him; but to draw him out I asked by last Post if he would like the man for an associate & his reply is "I should n't fancy such a colleague". With this view of the subject if B. does stand 3d on the list probably we should be sure to win R. if he came, as E. & likely V. might say No thank you, tho I am not sure as to Dr. Raynolds. Should our ladies co-incide we may start a vote next week to see the result. With a few such new men as Ashdown we ought, perhaps, put up with R. for B. not easy to re-inforce. Only that I have S.A. Accts., Tab. View, Estimates, etc. on hand I hoped to get off a sort of report of my trip Moush way, but for this time shall have to refer you to Watchman for a brief, and possibly your assistant secretaries may make up something from it worth sending St. Louis that may not have received mine sent them direct, as I dont hear from them.

Hastily yours, R. M. Wade

Pilis, Kourdistan, June 10th, 1899.

Dr. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Yours of 20th ult. at hand just as I arrive from my tour of eight days Mousa way, and we were glad to get it of course. A note with something of sad interest what you say as to poor prospect of re-inforcement for us from the condition of the treasury. The our teachers, and especially Miss Knapp, were so outspoken as to the Ainardsons coming, as I wrote you, still there seems more indication of late that they would yield it on the score as is my associate rather than theirs, and from the fact that if Ezr. & Van are in ahead no knowing when our turn would come, while some of us already past the three-score line should be relieved a bit. Doing more the provinces of the ladies of the other houses to report their health you will, perhaps, not refer to this part (in the open) in replying, but Miss Knapp has had considerable malarial trouble during the winter, while Miss Mary has been laid by from duty for nearly a month owing to a sort of malarial fever, as seems, owing to a cold, as she thinks: while her sister has at such favoring as her years & industrious demand & as Miss Mary gives it when she is round. Miss Mis able to ride out in mollahs for a change. Refer to these things, as perhaps most responsible for the health still of the circle so you may not be ignorant of the situation, while at the same time would it not accentuate the importance of re-inforcement for Pilis?

Reverting again to the Ainardson matter Dr. Ainardson & Dr. Sewey would favor his return to the field, and I thought Mr. Stapleton of E. would, as his brother in Oberlin spoke so well of him; but to draw him out I asked by last post if he would like the man for an associate & his reply is "I should n't fancy him a colleague". With this view of the subject it does stand ED on the last probably we should be sure to win R. if he came, as E. & Ainardsons V. might by no thanks you, tho I am not sure as to Dr. Raynolds. Should our ladies co-ride we may start a vote next week to see the result. With a few such new men as Asadown we ought, perhaps, put up with R. for E. not easy to re-inforce. Only that I have S.A. Acots., Jab. view, estimates, etc. on hand I hoped to get a sort of report of my trip Mousa way, but for this time shall have to refer you to watchman for a brief, and possibly your secretaries may make up something from it worth sending St. Louis that may not have received mine or them direct, as I dont hear from them.

Heartily yours.

503 AUG 7 1899

Personal. Bitlis, July 8th, 1899.

AUG 10 1899

ar Dr. Barton;-

Your kind letter of May 12th stuck at the other house "in the und-of-the-station-reading" that you used to be familiar with at Harpout, & was not in my acknowledgment of your other letter. By the way I had occas-n to quote from this of yours in writing Mr. Knapp who rather took us to do r not taking up 400 orphans, perhaps to drop them in a year! I said I felt s you expressed it-that we should keep them on for a series of years, so they urn to account to themselves & their race, rather than cast them out as mere ildren after a smattering of polish to await some cruel deportation! Of urse we have n't Dr. R's heavy sums to fall back on, tho feel friends have en very kind towards us & the cause we represent for the six months since r arrival this time in heeding our pleas both for orphans & the Relief.

But I set out here for a few personal words owing to the situation. And rst of all I admit it is time you had something official from us in the y of Station Report, Estimates for 1900, Tab. View, etc. As for us Coles we con-ss to not yet being able to catch up with this work, as things were on our rival in Jan. Not being here myself last year Miss Knapp promised long since to make up the port, and may have done so last Post, as we saw a heavy letter going yourway.

That we are in desperate need of a male associate here goes without say-g, but the outlook for such in the near future I fear is not bright at all. Cs feel that for such a place as B. these times & following the Ashdown e-nt, we might lie low, perhaps saying 'beggars shouldn't be choosers', certain-y if promptness is to enter into the problem. In view of all these things rs. C. & I felt like trying the Richardsons, trusting they might fill the bill, nd that after the new Ashdown an old Richardson might not be so bad; while ing as he would Coles associate to like or lump, ~~and~~ why not our word have onsiderable weight! Still the three ladies- especially Miss K.-would tole-ate no R. name in their paper, while they limit it to having a doctor-giving ope they may raise part of his sal'y for three years if he come this year. s I have hinted in the past, likely Mr. Stapleton & possibly Dr. R. might not are for the Rs, any more than did Hpt. who would not even take Mr. Knapp I un-tood; and possibly such higher Stations might be choosers, if we cannot. E. & V. re in great need-more than B. some in the Mission feel. We here feel Dr. R. is verreaching in his orhanage work, farming, etc. tho Germans may come in to as-st in that, while the Relief should not last much longer, Heaven grant, for ny of us! Dr. R. has not a single outstation to carry-everything being right efore him in Van, while the most interesting part of our B. work, on many ac-unts, is outside of B. city in our nearly 20 Outstations formerly in hand-M. ity hardly being 2d to B. in importance, cosidering what a center it is (of hich I may speak on another leaflet)-such as we veterans feel like takin up!

Seems to me I have heard hints that Treb. might be given up at no distant ay. Why could n't Dr. Parmelee think of fathering young Stapleton for a time s he knows that people, is of sound E.T. policy, & E. is his old home.

Thus you see how I have come in ahead for B. and we could put up with R., light man, as they are only three & so would not cost the Board so much.

so set were the good ladies we signed their vote, and it has gone round Mission to take its chances, tho I told them I should write my opinion to n. Trusting all may turn out for the best

Hastily, etc. R. M. Cole

My name not to appear before him if it were a lie about him for such reasons.

P.S. Yours of the 16th ult. just now at hand, for which thanks. Yes, it was sad for the overburdened workers at Van & for our Mission to have the enthusiastic young Miss Fraser thus drop out of the ranks when workers are so few but God has His ways, & ours it is to work on trustfully, hopefully His t

I wonder if the enclosed copy would turn to any account for the St. Louis at least as a pointer of tax upon us in various directions. Miss Shattuck remarked, when so much was required for reports that it might come to be a question whether missionaries were to do the work or talk about it.' This must hold all the more for those in the interior where no secretaries can be had & where alone, as some of us are, the 'routine' of duty covers all the gamut in the various departments of the larger Stations outside. Of course none of us can do so much, well & hard as they may try, but you who have had a touch of the Interior as you have it over Hpt. way, and can sympathize but Bitlis is ours. Dr. Raynolds (who knows both well) would tell you. Natives are narrow minded, jealous, behind in education & most of all in languages; so it is very hard to get good assistance & the few that might as well as not ought to look for a second salary before they take hold with heart, even the preacher, two thirds whose salary the Board pays. Part of the fault was the Consul's who paid dragoman Hagop, formerly our preacher at Moush, 3 Liras additional to his regular Sal'y, while the preacher had his 1½ extra also. In good contrast such was the course of the Diarbekir dragoman, Tomas Ef., former Pastor at Akin. He refused three extra that his Consul was willing to add, saying 'it is a poor story if he could n't do that much for his race when he already has Sal'y.' This race is too much given to the money grab & especially in (part) the

I have worked hard to get this ch. and people up to giving at least one half so the preacher be ordained over them, but if giving but 1200 of the 3600 I doubt if he should be theirs. Sure not a few of the people have moved away ~~while~~ to Van & while others come to their friends in Phila. in the autumn, but those that main dont come forward as they ought. As ever

R. M. Cole

Bitlis,Kourdistan,via Constantinople June 2

Mr.A.L.Bourne, No.101 CENTRAL St.Bangor,Me.

AUG 7 1899
AUG 10 1899 504

y dear Sir;-

Your kind letter of May 2d came to hand just as I was leaving for tour to the Moush part of our Field,so has not a prompt reply as desired. No,Iam sorry to say I cant remember your face,but do bring to mind the ear old church in which we used to worship when I was in the Sem'y,and tha un.Sch.in which I taught a class. To be sure you may have been away down' n your teens at that time,or below that,when we take into account that I ave passed the three score line,and we are now nearing 21 years in Turkey. e are glad,however,you remember my face which is not much changed-my hair howing little grey,and whiskers less than usual for men of my years.

We are also pleased that the Sab.Sch.not only recalls to mind their ab- ent member but wish to adopt one of our helpers so far as supplying $56 fo ne year. By the way,I dont know who furnished you this figure,but no regu- ar helper even in our Field(where it is cheaper than many)could live,as it would afford only a little over 15 cents the day for a man with a family. owever,we assign you one Honannes Ghazarian,native of Derkevank village but ow preacher,as well as teacher winters,in Havadorik of Moush region where have been on the tour. He is one of our old-time helpers-having studied n our high school in B.but is not a graduate of Harpout Theol.Sem'y,but ha een a faithful,worthy helper in his sphere & capacity-doing a good work ike many of the short-cut educated men do in America. We only have three ull-fledged graduates of our high sch.& Hpt.Sem'y at the present time,and ne lowest of the three salaries is 225 pias.or $111 for the year.

Honannes is a man about 40 years old,has wife and two promising children girl & boy of about 7 & 9 years age respectively. He is a humble,persever- ng brother whatever the conditions. A few years ago our Boston Committee ad plied the knife in cutting short our Estimates for the year,and so this orthy brother was left for a time with almost no allowance,while Govt.came ear wrenching their bed from them for taxes. Those days,too,I was over the n a tour,and how appeared Hoh.under the test? Not discouraged he had doffe is better rig(sort of pulpit suit(?))and there he was with crude sickle i annat work for day wages in the harvest. Right glad was I to call him aside rom the rougher workmen & put a Lira($4.40)in his hand-help received from riends in Eng.for such special cases. You can fancy how grateful the tired an was as he wiped the sweat from his brow. He now has his usual allowanc f 140 silver a month,or $69.08 for the whole year. What $56 does n't cover is poor people will carry,as also incidentals & some allowance for assist- nt teacher in the winter. A pen-picture is all we can give you of the man; nd his language you would n't understand,tho we will apprise him of your in erest & prayers; meanwhile we personally are most grateful to you & the Sab or your kindly consideration in the matter,and would be cordially remember- d to one & all. Yours from over the seas, R.M.COLE,Missionary.

Bixby, July 8, '97

Personal. 505 AUG 17 1899

Bitlis, Kourdistan, July 24th.

Dear Dr. Barton;-

in passing on another hasty report of bread distribution in town I have in mind to send just a word personal again to go into the waste-basket & not on file of course. I am hoping to send a sort of paper to you, more especially respecting Moush region where I made the tour lately, with a few observations of the work in general. The report proper sent by Miss Knapp is not quite so complete nor carefully drawn up I fear as to be very satisfactory to you; because of this in part I have felt more to send on a little more in case you could draw from that as a letter information if you care to I also send herewith copy of report of bread bill for town these four months which you might think best to pass on to St. Louis. I have only written the friends there once direct, feeling that they would kindly reply, if it arrived, thus establishing the fact of safe transport direct when I could write again might I ask that you present that as an apology for nothing more being sent, if they express wonder as to why no further news direct has come from their missionary in far-off Kourdistan. God bless them and hear their prayers in our behalf! From such enclosures as you forward from time to time, as in the present case they will see how many sided their man, & missionaries generally, has to be. Since beginning this note to you I have had several interruptions for the poor work proper, money remittal from Bulgaria to his friends in a near village, the orphanage cause, etc. For the sake of our ladies that had no outing last season we felt we must make everything bend to getting them up to B. usual encampment, tho Mrs. C. shrank from it so soon after our rather recent long journey from America. I am sorry to say that much as the salvation, as she seems to feel, of Miss Mary Ely depends on an Anl. sojourn at the encamp-

ment her sister is not yet prevailed upon to take the change of air, tho
if not all of us probably feel she is just the one who should have it. bu
really what can any of us do with these young lady teachers but let them
their own way! It comes harder, however, when we see their health precariou
No doubt it will do us all good to get away from the strain of so many po
tugging at our heartstrings so constantly in such sympathy & tax on time.
It takes me two hours in coming & going each day-taking so much time fro
hours of labor for the day, but the exercise & change of air should help

No man liveth to himself applies in the foreign field as in the homela
We are all in usual health & dwell in safety for the present at least, tho
Mousn region is somewhat uncertain from agitators having been in evidence

Cordially yours, R. M. Cole

SEP 5 1899
OCT 9 1899

Bitlis, Kourdistan, August 8th, 1899.

506

Rev.James L.Barton,D.D.,

Dear Dr.Barton;-

Herewith you will find as much as you have the time to read; so I had better not add much more at the risk of overtaxing your time. Possibly some of the inclosures might go on to St.Louis,you can judge better as to the demand. The truth is as no acknowledgment of what I sent them direct has come to hand I have not so much interest in taking time to write them till I hear if it arrived or not.

I have had so much difficulty in securing proper Tab.view reports I am afraid the time is past for it to be of any use to you,and in any case the old ones would give a better showing. Never has there seemed more desire for educational & Gospel privileges,tho such terrible poverty prevails on every hand what can be expected for contributions! Still in most of our field the decline in that respect has not been so great in proportion as Dr.Raynolds has to report in his field I see. If I had made up the Station Report seems to me there were not a few things to encourage that Miss Knapp did n't hit upon. I dont think she referred to the ten admissions to our church here on confession these two Communions since our return,tho she heads her report for '98 & '99. But with Watchman's Notes you have news & I must stop now.

All in fair health & Miss C.Ely has gone to encampment at last-joining us not till yesterday.

With cordial greetings from our Circle, R.M.Cole

P.S.

Wonder if I have before said we were glad to hear your Hpt.had at last invited our Mr.Knapp to that Station & work. God bless the choice if we cant have him here in B.again! Might this imply that there should be a modification as to Mr.Richardson also? Dr.Dewey in late letter regrets he is not called.

Rec'd Aug 28/99

Lilis, Kodaikanal, August 8th, 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Herewith you will find as much as you have the time to read; so I had better not add much more at the risk of wearying your time. Possibly some of the inclosures might go on to Sec. Lee. You can judge better as to the demand. The truth is as no acknowledgment of what I sent them direct has come to hand I have not so much interest in knowing time to write them till I hear if it arrived or not.

I have had so much difficulty in securing proper Tab. view reports I am afraid the time is past for it to be of any use to you, and in any case the ones would give a better showing. Never has there seemed more desire for educational & Gospel privileges, the same terrible poverty prevails on every hand what can be expected for contributions! Still in most of our fields the meeting in that respect has not been so great in proportion as Dr. Raymond has to report in his field I see. If I had made up the Station Report seems to me there were not a few things to encourage that Miss Knapp did n't mit mention. I dont think she referred to the ten admissions to our church here on admission these two Communions since our return, the one heads her report in '96 & '98. But with Watchman's Notes you have news & I must stop now.

All in fair health & Miss C. Ely has gone to encampment at last - joining us not till yesterday.

With cordial greetings from our Circle.

Yours,

Wonder if I have before said we were glad to hear your opt. had at last invited our Mr. Knapp to that station & work. God bless the choice if we can have him here in E. again! Might this imply that there should be a modification as to Mr. Richardson also? Dr. Dewey in late letter regrets he is not called.

SEP 23 1899 507

Bitlis, Kourdistan, August 26th, 1899.

OCT 9 1899

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton;-

I herewith hand you the Estimates of Bitlis Station for 1900. You should have had them before, but not taking them up for action till after your return from Anl. Meeting in Oct. we hope it will not inconvenience you. With one-man Stations, as are the majority of E.T. at the present time, you must expect delays & imperfections; for as Mr. Baird remarked when over from Monastir two years ago to help me in these many & arduous duties for a few months "It is impossible for one to do so much properly & natives will so run you down you will not be able to get away for rest. I should break down if I staid three days more", said the man as he hastened his departure for home earlier than at first planned. Poor Dr. Raynolds is in a similar, if not worse state, tho he has not a single outstation to care for, while B. has enough of such outside work to keep me in the saddle not a little as well as tax combined wisdom, patience & grace from the neglect & worse than that of Mr. Ashdown's time! But to return to the Estimates there are a few things to be noted by way of explanation. In cutting garment according to cloth-the only 18% allowed us-of course we are short. We had planned to bring over a college graduate from Hpt. to reinstate the higher department of our Boys' High Sch. disbanded since the "event" when the teacher was killed, but ~~we~~ the limitations will not carry it without turning off other helpers-a bad thing to doif we would hold what helpers we now have. The poor ones have enough to confront in environments to render it hard to keep them if only they might secure the needed road papers for leaving the regions, while the whole is accentuated when Erzroum (in Mr. Chambers' time) took up two of our graduates that succeeded in reaching there on about double the salary they drew in this field. I am hinting to Mr. Stapleton that there used to be Inter-Stational Comity spoken of in the Mission years ago, and it may be called up again.

You will find considerable difference between this & last year's Estimates for not only did Mr. Ashdown ignore all precidents & principles so far as he should know, but he seemed to studiously avoid consultation with the Elys so that even one of our regular yearly helpers was out of the count altogether. Our only delegate at the Erm. meeting was Miss M. Ely who was fevering, and the Finance Comee. did n't seem to consult with her; so she cant explain something tho apparently more was put upon Woman's work because our limit would n't carry it, but really it pertained to that department also as ~~on~~ Touring.

This year, as you see, we have to put under Contingents such important items as our Postage, Medical, Summer Res. etc. Hence if you would have us report ourselves often, send frequent epistles to helpers outside; keep well by consulting the medical bottle or betaking ourselves to our Summer Resort that has already done most of number no little good this five weeks, you will see that these items, at least, pass, which would be equivalent to taking them into the family circle of regular Appropriations & virtually adding to our per cent, which should be done. I had supposed our per cent had gone up one or two, as has Van that now has not a single outstation in place of one or two formerly. At a Hpt. Anl. Meeting comparison of Erzm. & Bitlis work in hand, was had, which went to show they were similar, while the proportion is more in our favor today, especially if the Russian part were excluded, that is lagely and should perhaps be wholly self-supporting, as some years since protested Oroomiah Pres

How would it do for you to suggest an alternate vote ending with Richardson name sent you. Dr. Dwight does not look hopeful of the one sent round & the dear long delay. E.

Mission in writing Mr.W.N.Chambers,and why should they have three per ce
more than we? They have not so many named(& only such pass in meeting yo
helpers as well if they did & were on our per cent they could n't overbid u
salary.The Persian missionaries often pass through that part of Russia,
the conditions & felt a people that could carry should not be pauperized
Van,too,has had special consideration as a new Station that work might d
veloped outside,but coming back from the former little outside to nothin
all save the city work why more or even the same for only one city for p
I have called up the per cent business partly at Dr.Raynolds'suggestion,
feels in our having so few Anl.Meeting each must talk up his case with
direct. Referring again to Van I believe I know my heart well enough to
lieve I have the interest of God's work equal for all these fields,but
were to express an opinion I feel what is needed most of all for that fi
is a live missionary to go in for developing a work outside of V. Dr.Ray
wants to get rid of med.practice,so would have a physician & surgeon who
set up a hospital. Where is the all-round man that can carry such & be
much to the work at large! Better,seems to me that Dr.R.take the health
for the Circle there & Orphanages his special charge but be allowed to
draw from outside practice,as I believe V.has fair native Drs.-as good a
No simply doctors especially for these smaller Stations,but the all-rou
man that has no hobbies to ride to the neglect of Evangelistic & Educati
work say we Coles at least. This leads me to my associate question agai
think you are right in saying there is unfounded prejudice regarding M
Richardson,tho I can but feel most of our male missionaries would not d
me Mr.R.,as indeed Dr.R.in his recent visit indicated for himself,tho
feel sure he should want the man at Van, If,as you say in yours of 28th
(just at hand-thanks)the doctor is not in sight for V.when,pray,is our
be forthcoming!or if money was in hand & only a throb of the Cable was
to bring up our Mr.Knapp for H.can we hope promptitude is to be our for
But you will say the Vote limited it to a doctor.Yes,to conciliate thes
dies too set to have a Richardson-even end the vote like the copy I sen
we signed theirs,and so it went round the Mission for a trial. But now
seems so poor a prospect of the doctor being forthcoming they may waver
to trying to raise a part of the sal'y,while later on who shall say the
not be willing to accept Mr.Richardson as now Hpt.is Mr.R.not eligible
other places,as was not from conditions.We shall see if later a Vote w
Richardson appendage is called for & let you know. Fitlis,too,was in de
ation,if it may not be said as badly off today. Then I added to a Tel.
was paying for as to Ely piano,"Send Ricardson",but it probably seemed od
no admissible;but staggering as I was under the burdens I struck it par
because Dr.Raynolds,in keen sympathy for me,was moving to get on for a
the older Allen son so long away from the country as to be practically
less & of no experience. Better by far I thought to have Richardson for
time,and who shall say if he had come we should not been spared the Asn
event & possibly Mr.R.turned to good account as a minute man under desp
conditions that prevail in some of these Stations where ready language
are so much called for! But enough of this long letter. Possibly other
tions may express themselves on the matter. Of course neither Mr.R.nor
of us are equal to these things but we all can try to do our duty.

Cordially yours, R.M.Cole

P.S. You will see Coles Sal'y stands the same as for '99 since the child in U.S. advanced into the last percent our son Franks drops out about time from receiving further help as we understand the rule R.M.C.

OCT 6 1899
OCT 9 1899

Bitlis, Kourdistan, September 12th, 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Many thanks for yours of 10th ult. at hand this last post. Of course the associate question will remain for the time till we see what success you meet with in finding the physician. The Mission records show that when we called for Miss Knapp a lady physician was also desired of course supposing she might be permitted to practice in the land. But tho hopeless in that line for the present seems to me such a spiritual one like Mrs. Stapleton would do well for B. if not for Van also, as she could attend to the Circle, Schs. & Orphanages, but be free of outside practice. We shall see if our ladies may not come to this view on seeing the delay. They are desperate on the doctor question & most of all Miss K. who may have been impressed by inheritance, since the parents had great trials in this respect. Of course we, too, feel it & are three-one being our young daughter. But the lady would probably be easier for you to find, less expensive & ought to fill the bill perhaps better than the man who might be only a doctor, as seems the danger in most such cases. She could stand ready to help these ladies two of whom we fear are not to last long if the rest of us do; while Miss K. tho a good person has no practicality to meet responsibilities anywhere.

As for Mr. Richardson who Mr. Crawford writes "is homesick for his native land & people" (he was born at Arabkir) I would n't overpush the question, tho desperation may in the end prepare the way for its success as in Mr. K's case. As our Stated Clerk will have reported to you our vote barely had a majority as many so conditioned their vote as to leave you in doubt. No doubt many of them would vote my man associate feeling I should have some bal. of power in the question. Of course if this Station is to be kept up there should be a live missionary to enter right into the rough outside work, which might be done if the lady physician were hit upon. If you were persuaded to this view and were to refresh our ladies' minds as to that Mission action & the propriety of its being acted upon quite likely they would fall in with it, especially if the other doctor is not to be forthcoming. Then their desire would be so largely filled we should be freer to decide who the full missionary should be, whether Richardson or another, if a suitable beat hand-without loss of time. This will be regulated in God's own time & way we trust.

As to Mr.Stapleton & Erzroum matters I feel too,as you express it tha
is working in a way to bring that Station into harmony with Mission poli
as we all know it has not been heretofore,but it is hard for him of cou
A people treated to a liberal money diet dont like to be put on short r
I have taken the liberty of hinting that he might perhaps better not ta
all the responsibility but leave over parts for the next Anl.Meeting to
its decision on,when they cant blame him so much of course. Armenian pa
are raising the cry against him in Cons'ple which seems to have alarmed
wonderful Com.Ad Int.I judge,as it is rumored they think he will have t
leave. Not so fast I should say.Let us see what the next Meeting may do
that as well as not a few other questions on the tapis.

Accentuating the physician question I might say that there is much si
& no little mortality in town-malignant smallpox & measles if not scarl
being most in evidence. We have a case of the first just beginning in o
girls'orphanage but how it will develope is not now clear. Our ladies a
much frightened over it naturally,but we hope for nothing serious.

We are all much grieved at the news you give as to our beloved Presi
Dr.Lamson was only two classes ahead of me in Amherst College. He was m
tor of my class one year,was an exemplary man in all respects,and held
highest esteem of all who knew him in college. Like myself somewhat adv
in years he was a tower of strength before such younger men as appeared
only be in line of study for sake of a name,but not to pursue a manly c
I am of the opinion whatever we Amherst men might say of him in college
true of him from that time on,as new friends would testify. It is often
teresting to follow the boys as the go out to meet the world to see if
come up to the standard as in college & if they disappoint by taking o
unwarranted courses it was never true of our Lamson. May his family and
friends,among whom are we & the Board,be comforted,while we hope his ma
may fall on another as worthy.

If a lady or doctor were to be our good fortune I wish they might be
ted to do dentistry as well. I have had the great misfortune to break o
front tooth above and half fear I may have to go to E.to have at fixed,
I shall hope to get along by sending the work by post.What would wester
think of getting on in such a state for two weeks with all the risks!
Holding on at the camp & all in usual health Miss M.ELY being better.

Cordially yours,

R.M.Co

NOV 6 1899 509

Bitlis, Kourdistan, September 26th 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton; -

Perhaps a note additional to Notes of news may not be out of place. We are sorry to hear thro. H.N.B. that our U. Ministers seems inclined to call a halt on the G.P.K. reinforcement. I had felt & said I thought the So. Route would be the more prudent one to take, and allow more time on score of season should there be any delay. Mr. Brown's party had experience on the Cons'ple route you know - causing no little inconvenience.

Mr. K. has written us urgently to hasten on his things to Hpt., which we aim to do just as soon as a caravan via M. & Palu can be found: the other way, especially for B'ks, perhaps to enter Diar. not economical or prudent.

Our schools for the new year are starting out fairly well for numbers, tho tuition is quite too uncertain a quantity. That at Moush not yet begun, and our preacher Arpear is in doubt as to prudence for want of order tho it 25 or so years old. We are making the attempt to set up our branch for orphans there that was in a near village hitherto for nearly two years. We do this in hopes it will give new impetus to education for boys in M.

The outlook for the winter for poor people is the same old story - from bad to worse, and how life is to be conserved is more than one can now see.

By the way, referring once more to B. reinforcement, was it not at a Hpt. Mission meeting, and were not you present when Miss Knapp's case for B. was voted on, and do you not remember that we asked for a lady physician as well? As there was some wavering on our vote limiting it to a doctor I am trying to quietly resurrect that old vote, if there is little prospect of promptness in line of the other vote. Tho a lady could n't practice outside any more than Miss Kimball could in Van, yet she could carry the health - bill of our Circle, the schools & orphanage; while, if she were an all - around one she could help much in meeting responsibilities that weigh heavily upon the Elys especially in their state of health & nervous condition, while Miss K. is not of the make - up to be practical & help in all matters. Miss Mary E. is the one of all work but was very poorly when we went to camp, and tho she has picked up much there should be some planning for one of a practical turn to take her place, seems to me. But next Anl. Meeting will, if it takes place, give a chance to air all these things.

Hastily, cordially,

Pitlis, Kourdistan, September 25th 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:

Perhaps a note additional to Notes of news may not be out of place. We are sorry to hear thro. H.N. & that our U. seems inclined to call a halt on the C.P.K. reinforcement. I had felt & said I thought the So. Route would be the more prudent one to take, and allow more time on score of season should there be any delay. Mr. Crown's party had experience on the Cons'ple route you know causing no little inconvenience.

Mr. K. has written us urgently to hasten on his things to Hpt., which we aim to despatch as soon as a caravan via Mt. Palu can be found: the other way, especially for K's, perhaps to enter Diar. not economical or prudent.

Our schools for the new year are starting out fairly well for numbers. The tuition is quite too uncertain a quantity. That at Moush not yet begun, and our preacher Arpear is in doubt as to prudence for want of order the it or so years old. We are making the attempt to set up our branch for or- ians there that was in a near village hitherto for nearly two years. We do not in hopes it will give new impetus to education for boys in M.

The outlook for the winter for poor people is the same old story-from bad worse, and how little is to be conserved is more than one can now see.

By the way, referring once more to E. reinforcement, was it not at a Hpt. mission meeting, and were not you present when Miss Knapp's case for B. was noted on, and do you not remember that we asked for a lady physician as well? as there was some wavering on our vote limiting it to a doctor I am trying to quietly respirect that old vote, if there is little prospect of promptness in line of the other vote. The a lady could n t practice outside any more than Miss Kimball could in Van, yet she could carry the health-oil of our circle, the schools & orphanage: while, if she were an all-around one she could help much in meeting responsibilities that weigh heavily upon the Elys especially in their state of health & nervous condition, while Miss K. is not the make-up to be practical & help in all matters. Miss Mary E. is the one of all work but was very poorly when we went to camp, and the she has picked up much there should be some planning for one of a practical turn to take hold place, seems to me. But next Ann. Meeting will, if it takes place, give a chance to air all these things.

Hastily, cordially,

R.H.

30 1899
6 1899

Bitlis, Kourdistan, October 3d 1899.

Rev.James L.Barton,D.D.,

Dear Dr.Barton;-

We do not forget this is the day when you are gathering at Providence,or will be the day when it reaches that land. There will be a sadness about the silent,vacant chair,but so it is persons of all ranks-those so very important as we count it,as well as those in the common walks,are stricken down often when they can ill be spared & unexpectedly,for so it is pleasing in His sight,whose is the power as well as glory. May you have the Spirit's presence to comfort & bless abundantly in the whole Meeting is our earnest prayer out here on the walls of Kourdistan.

I am very busy in preparing for sending away as soon as can get a caravan for Hpt.Mr.K's things,while Dr.Raynolds wishes us to lay in a large Amt. of wheat for his orphans,Schools,etc. Thus you can fancy we are in no danger of rusting out at present,and we ought,perhaps,lift up our heads & rejoice as if there were not a discouraging note to be found,but the enclosed Notes would be against that,and I take it we are to stick to apparent outlook.

We expect to see Dr.Ussher here on his way to Van ere many weeks,as per Dr.Barnum's letter at hand. Dr.B.,by the way,speaking of our vote & the doctor question says"It is useless to have a doctor in hope he will do evangelistic work.Dr.R.is the only one I have ever known to do it,and he does n't succeed very well.Dr.U.is overwhelmed with his medical work." This emphasizes the importance of the lady doctor question for B.cirle & orp.& Schs., while we strike hard for the evangelistic man pure & simple!

Hastily,cordially,

R.M. Bale

Tillis, Kourdistan, October 2d 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Dear Dr. Barton:-

We do not forget this is the day when you are gathering at Providence, or will be the day when it reaches that land. There will be a sadness about the silent, vacant chair, but so it is persons and all ranks-those so very important as we count it, as well as those in the common walks, are stricken down often when they can ill be spared & unexpectedly, for so it is pleasing in His sight, whose is the power as well as glory. May you have the Spirit's presence to comfort & bless abundantly in the whole meeting is our earnest prayer out here on the wails of Kourdistan.

I am very busy in preparing for sending away as soon as can get a caravan for Hpt. Mr. K's things, while Dr. Raynolds wishes us to lay in a large Amt. of wheat for his orphans, Schools, etc. Thus you can fancy we are in no danger of trusting out at present, and we ought, perhaps, lift up our heads & rejoice if there were not a discouraging note to be found, but the enclosed Notes would be against that, and I take it we are to stick to apparent outlook.

We expect to see Dr. Usher here on his way to Van are many weeks, as per Dr. Jarnum's letter at hand. Dr. E., by the way, speaking of our vote & the doctor question says "It is useless to have a doctor in hope he will do evangelistic work. Dr. R. is the only one I have ever known to do it, and he does n't succeed very well. Dr. U. is overwhelmed with his medical work." This emphasizes the importance of the lady doctor question for E. Girls & Orp. & Schs., while we strike hard for the evangelistic man pure & simple!

Hastily, cordially,

W M Rae

NOV 7 1899

Bitlis, Kourdistan, October 10th 1899.

acknowledged

ev.James L.Barton,D.D.,

Dear Dr.Barton;-

Miss M.Ely with the formerly so long
ncarcerated teacher of M.city girls'school & myself plan leaving this for
loush to-morrow to be absent eight days or more. Up to the present we have
been able to carry forward most of the work in usual way, in M region including the vil-
ages as well as city,tho agitators there give us more anxiety of late too.
e are all in usual health,and have been thinking & praying for the success
f your Providence Meeting as your sessions began & went forward. By the way,
e were wondering who would look after the cause of orphans in place of Mr.K
nd thought of askink why Mr.Crawford,late at Trebizond,might not do well,
f he is not to return to Turkey at present. He seemed rather popular among
he churches & especially the young people whom he interests,especially.

You probably remember our son Frank formerly at Auburndale Home,but since
t Oberlin. We are sorry to say that from La grippe last year,with pneumo-
ia complications,he has become so poorly that the doctor & friends there
n advice with our son at N.Y.city thought it necessary for him to drop stud
for a year,and go south,or to some milder climate for fear of his lungs-
he South being suggested. But on score of expense chiefly & at hints in our
etters he has gone to my sister in Walla Walla,Wash.in hopes that milder
limate will build him up. We were wondering if it would be too much to ask
f the Board could help in his expense out there of $50.00,as added to the
itter disappointment to the dear boy of thus having to stop in his educa-
ional course there is this extra financial burden. Perhaps it would n't be

out of place to suggest that it would n't seem quite so hard only that a Life Endowment Policy taken out at late Dr.Clark & late Treasurer Wa advice when we came to T.in '68,and whose premium each year we carried no little difficulty,has to the extent of $500.00 been lost through th fortunate investment of Mr.W.,as the present Treas.Mr.Wiggin wrote me long since. Our New York son writes that Mr.Wiggin answers him that Frank will be 21 next June 8th,and that only $75 more aid will reach h after Jan.1st. That mistake has been through our last Anl.Meeting putt his age one year more than it was,as I think I wrote you. I also left you record of our children's ages. I am sorry to trouble you with thes questions but the misfortune(no,not that,for to Christians can there such?)of our dear boy has led me in that direction & you will forgive.

Hastily yours, R.M. Cole

DEC 1 1899 512
DEC 4 1899

r Friends;- Bitlis, October 24th 1899

Three more European travelers cross our Bitlis horizon, one of them German, Dr. Belck who came no nearer us than the lake-shore & Moush-only leaving the latter place for Diarbekir a few days before we arrived there in our late tour. The others were Lord Percy & his cousin Edward Percy. As Miss Ely & I were about leaving for Moush we only met them once but found them pleasant indeed. They were leaving south-eastward to pass through Khizan on to the Persian border & so down the river to Mosul, Bagdad & Bosrah whence they sail for India-just about the roughest overland trip this rough land could afford we trow. Their special interest seemed the Nestorian church.

After nine days absence Moush way we arrived home the 19th inst. If we did n't find much positive to encourage, the negative was enough in evidence. After so many notes of caution from our friends in Cons'ple it seemed best to seek governmental recognition of our schools in that region, tho for age they all quite antedate our 15 years plus connection with this Station.

But the new muteserrif, a young official seemed so important, not to say potent, that he would listen to nothing but absolute order from our B. Vali. On consulting this official since our return he promises to write the M. man to know why he was so intolerant, but we fear it may be but the shuttlecock process of delay to be ended if at all at Cons'ple. Well, if "Whatever is be right" then this, too, must be so, and we must wait on the logic of events.

We had Communion at Havadorik & Derkevank on Sun., tho the audiences not so full as at other times. The truth is insane agitators so rife in Akhlat recently now prowl about the M. region "seeking whom they may devour" oppressing, extorting money, in one case whisked a man off to the Mts. to demand 50 liras ransom, but he effected his escape. In fine people are in much terror as to what a day may bring forth & teachers fear to hold on in two villages. Two more deaths, we hear, in our former outstation Khuntsorkin just over in Van vilayet south of lake & probably at hands of these same outlaws!

For all the abundant rains of last week wheat does n't decline much in price, tho drastic measures prevent its shipment to other vilayets. Our Vali does n't consent to my sending any on for Dr. Raynolds, tho we are sending off 700 batmons of raisins & onions as soon as conditions can be arranged.

If papers may be secured in time to avoid too much cold we think of sending ten orphan girls to Brousa in reply to Supert. Baghdasar's telegram. A former teacher of Mt. Holyoke here is now teacher in that Orphanage we hear. We now have strong hope & Turkeyfied expectation that we shall see G.P.K's things on the way for Hpt. to-morrow, as we have the bargain-binder half lira already in hand at last.

A telegram & letter later indicate we may expect Dr. Clarence D. Ussher of Harpout with us late the coming Saturday. We shall be glad to make the young brother's acquaintance & have another veritabe American guest.

With cordial greetings,

Watchman.

Dear Friends:-

Three more European travelers cross our Bitlis horizon, one of German, Dr. Belck who came no nearer us than the lake-shore & Mosul-only the latter place for Diarbekir a few days before we arrived there in late tour. The others were Lord Percy & his cousin Edward Percy. As Miss & I were about leaving for Mosul we only met them once but found them pleasant indeed. They were leaving south-eastward to pass through Khizan on the Persian border & so down the river to Mosul, Bagdad & Bostan whence they sail for India. Just about the longest overland trip this young land afford we know. Their special interest seemed the Nestorian church.

After nine days absence Mosul way we arrived home the 10th instant. We find much positive to encourage, the negative was enough in evidence. For so many notes of caution from our friends in Cons'ple it seemed best seek governmental recognition of our schools in that region, the for are all quite antedate our 15 years plus connection with this Station. But the new mutesarrif, a young official seemed so important, not to say ant, that he would listen to nothing but absolute order from our E. Vali. consulting this official since our return he promises to write the M. Man know why he was so intolerant, but we fear it may be out the shuttlecock cross of delay to be ended if at all at Cons'ple. Well, if "Whatever is be put" then this, too, must be so, and we must wait on the logic of events. We had Communion at Havadorik & Derkevank on Sun., the audiences not full as at other times. The truth is insane agitators so rife in Akhlat currently now prowl about the M. region "seeking whom they may devour" oppress-ing, extorting money, in one case whisked a man off to the Mts. to demand 60 ras ransom, but he effected his escape. In fine people are in much terror to what a day may bring forth & teachers fear to hold on in two villages more deaths, we hear, in our former outstation Khunsorkin just over in an vilayet south of lake & probably at hands of these same outlaws!

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With cordial greetings,

Watchman.

Confidental. Bitlis, November 6/99.

Dear Dr. Barton; -

Your kind letter of 10th ult. referring to International Coun cil, meeting of our Board, etc. at hand this post. Truly you must have been busy indeed with two large meetings so near together in time & distance.

No, we can count on little regularity in arrival of Cong'list or anyother periodicals that has news of general interest. In nearly four months we have received only three Cong'lists till this post when seven found their way to us, tho dated back as far as early in July, while others the last of Sept.! It is sent to our son N. Frank's address, Oberlin, O. and they forward us. One was sent us as Frank started for Detroit C. Endeavor convention but comes now! Hence you see we yet have no news as to the Providence Meeting, save that our son in New York sends us a carping article from the N.Y. Times of Oct. 14th and says Samuel B. Capen, Esq. had been chosen President of the Board, etc.

We have no report as to action of the Committee respecting physician for Bitlis, but are very glad for the information & assurance you give us on so important a matter, tho we note the difficulty you hint at in finding the Dr. Still we might as well submit here & now what has been stated by Dr. Barnum substance & confirmed by their Dr. Ussher in his visit most delightful with us last week - that a fullfledged doctor never can fill our bill here. As I have before told you this is not a place for paying practice outside, great as is the need for our circle. Dr. U. felt that at Hpt. & was run upon the three days he was with us. Hence if you are fortunate enough to quickly find the Dr. we must needs put in for the missionary Simonpure at our coming Anl. Meeting, for we at E. have no little missionary work proper outside also to carry. This may seem to you discouraging & poor return for your effort for a Dr. but my letters have shown that a mere doctor could never fill the bill in this field. It may be you will cogitate as to that terrible Erzroum (perhaps you will say 'terrible' for all E.T.!) & feel something must be done there. I hear again of feelings in certain quarters that E. better be given up. I should decidedly vote against that, tho to leave it open so far as a male missionary goes for a few months to let the people feel it was to be left might be a lesson to them - tho really I think one man is the faulty one & leads others off but not all of them by anymeans are so bad. We know him as the man that feels better fitted to manage the Boards funds in the land than missionaries. Let me quote from one of the best native pastors I have ever known in Turkey, now pastor at Smyrna. In a late letter to me on other matters he says "I hear Aghajanian again giving some trouble to the new pastor in Erzeroum. Why that man did not change a little himself; how good things & bad things he has. The pastor is good man." Is the literal words in quasi Eng. of the Smyrna pastor & we say Amen!

Cordially, Watchman.

Should you think of 'moving a few men on the board' would it be worth co
sidering to let Mr. Drawford who knows Freb. work so well to replace Dr. P
a time at least, while the latter be prevailed upon to come up to E. on a
ial mission, and as a change for Mr. Stapleton who seems treated shabily
of late come on to us at E. especially if our doctor question is to drag
Mrs. S. could take charge of bill of health for our circle & Schs. as we n
she is fullfledged, but would have to keep back from outside work for la
permit & I think we could get along for a time to await developments. I
out this as a seedthought for what it is worth. Of course Dr. P. would fe
unwilling to leave f. unprovided for, or to go save to carry through some
in nature of a special mission: but the same would apply to any one els
a man of experience & not a new one again is called for if E. is to be
"Not I" Cole would surely say for the place now, well as we know that peo
We are very sorry for Mr. Stapleton & stringent measures are called for
trouble has come about largely we feel trough too free use of money in
past, and from allowing that one man to handle & vote away so much money
he had no contribution in it. In presence of the Chambers & me he once
on as to how that whole expensive high school building should be in the
ple's name when somebody over our way said 'When you pay half the expens
There are so many things as to loans of money, paying out of famine, etc
cover a part submitted the Mission meeting as their part on the parsona
which Mr. Richardson thought had never been refunded, etc. etc. And here
say that I felt Mr. R. was safer in ordinary use of Board's funds than
some preceding him, tho a carriage matter would arise in certain minds t
tradict it, but Mr. R., as I under stood it at the time, submitted the que
to W. N. C's endorsement, who was in Boston & saw the carriage & knew the
had not been advanced. Partly from fear at the bad effect a refusal to
on the order would have on that pasha led him to pass it on, but Mr. S. co
have used better judgment & hindered it as not on the ground & R. not s
from the official at hand. Pardon this much as a pointer. But many of t
things may be material for the negt Anl. Meeting Docket in the summer.

I pass on enclosures if they be worth sending to St. Louis. I get no
knowledgment, so fear what I send does n't reach the new friends there.

Hastily, cordially yours, R. M. Cole

P. S. I am sorry to say that Miss Ely the elder is poorly. I a
Dr. Usher & suggested to her sister that he look into their health
but she didn't listen to the hint that she was not well, but
me on my going to see how she was to-day that Dr. U. had not
out of town two hours before she regretted she had not asked hi
nervously she especially is in a bad way & attributes this largely to late
violent thunder & lightning occurring while I was away at mouth. But you
please not refer to her or their health unless they speak of it to you.

DEC 16 1899 DEC 19 1899

Dear Friends;- Bitlis, Kourdistan, Nov. 14th, '99.

Our late rather bountiful rains ended with a sifting of snow on two of the many mountains that are 'round about us', while we had white frosts and a skimming of ice in the yard with somewhat cool nights since.

Dr. Ussher reached us from Harpout via Palu & Moush Sat'y 28th ult., and was with us till Wed'y morn following. Of course we enjoyed his visit much, and he seemed a bit refreshed for pushing on to Van, tho medical work was too on his track to allow him much quiet. Poorly as he was on leaving H. he was not first class for horseback on starting on again but reached Van fairly well. In hopes it might be easier for him-a good sailor-we sought to arrange so he take shipping at Tadwan but the captain would n't take his fiery steed onboard. We wish Miss Ely could have realized her physical status then as most of us did so he could have diagnosed & so prescribed for her as possibly to have saved our telegraphing him back this way as he may go to meet a party at E. With such nervous prostration if not some congestion of the brain we are anxious for results, and feel obliged to turn to a Mission doctor.

The question of our Schools Moush way seems clearing up; so those having teachers are opening save the branch for girls in M. city, which was taught by the one so long in 'durance vile' two years since. The new muteserrif will have ers is a new Sch. albeit she has had her girls in hired places in town. Since the event she has been the sole teacher-having a few small boys with the girl partly to save expenses & because there were few pupils. The trouble from this cessation may be that all places should have the semblance of identity.

If 'on to the Klondyke, or the pre-emption claims' is heard in America, a general Canadian fever is brewing here & at Moush! A pamphlet extolling Manitoba & Winnipeg in particular, was sent the consul-thus falling into the hands of the dragoman, and so the 'button is touched'! One family from M. has passed through via southern route & others expected if papers materialize, while e- still more in B. seek to plume their wings, among them some of the fairer sex.

A rather exciting affair has been the killing by Govt. troops the noted agitator chief Serope. He was decoyed by so-called friends into coming out of the Dalvorig fastnesses of Sassoun into Geliguzan village, where after a four hours' engagement he & eleven others are killed, as per official information. What harm, if any, came to the troops after so long a fight we are not informe His wife-like a devoted companion-stood by him as at other times, and is reported to have been smarter than he with the gun! The 8th his head was brou into town, and after slight football process was elevated on a poll to be re- led by the dense throng gathered. His wife wounded in the affray was brou prisoner two days later. Our Govt. took good precaution that no disturbanc ke place, and all is quiet, as we hope may be so all the more now for these gions. The Vali asserts that all is well in Sassoun now.

Cordially, Watchman.

JAN 19 1900 FEB 5 1900 575

Dear Friends;-

Bitlis, December, 4/99.

One more turn of the wheel ere we ring out the old year & century for the new. Warmest greeting to all whom these presence may meet as we cross such an important bar in the chain of time! We crave Heaven's blessing. After eleven days with us Dr. Ussner resumed his journey 27th for Erzroum-leaving Miss Ely better but so far from well some time is needed for her full recovery-her diet having to be largely liqid in place of solid food.

Passed a pleasant Sab. at Khoultig village where we had Communion & Baptism. Many of the male communicants had been scattered for the summer at their usual trade as potters among distant villages, some in the Erz. field even. It was interesting to listen to their rehearsal of experiences where they had so many temptations but succeeded in letting their light shine before others. The hired mule took me over snow for about a mile on the mountain, tho the little whitening of it in town soon disappeared, and we still have pars grou with rather mild, pleasant weather. Lowest mercury thus far only 20 plus.

On the 20th ult. we had disquieting news ~~of~~ as to what had taken place at Khasdour of the Erz. field, in sight I believe of snow-capped old Ararat. Koun who had been detailed to chaperon the village demand the few arms the villagers have & insist that vagrant agitators must keep away-knowing full well band was bivouacking for the night in the church. The impetuous son of the heikh in charge persisted in going to dislodge them against his father's advice. Soon he & father with a few others go as a sacrifice, which naturally roved the signal gun for what followed. We are yet in doubt as to extent of ss of life, tho some from E. region, as also some in Khasdour itself we used know have been killed from this so foolish a demonstration, & to what use. thin a few days a smaller affair of this sort has taken place in part of Sasoun called Uspaghank, near Maratouk mountain. The Ks are said to have pa oked the attack they turned back with loss of two, while Is meet with no im diate loss, but all such conduct is sure to result in future trouble.

Our Govt. is wide awake in repressive measures so far as appears, glad to say etime ago we reported how two agitators were shot by the police near our mer outstation Khuntsorkin, south of this end of lake. One of the police ated now no one gave information as to the fellows' hidings but they found m. Rather recently their companions took revenge on two young men of the llage wholly ignorant of any conniving in the matter & cruelly murdered m. One of them was for a short time in our B. Sch, & hopeful young man.

While I am playing this dolorose of a minor key I might state that it is re firmed that one Bedrose Melkonian, son of former deacon of the B. Ch. who left h his daughter once in our school to go to Alashgerd or regions beyond, been killed in the Malasgerd region while the Ks have carried off the r girl as captive! Friends dissuaded him from starting out thus but he went ood old Thanksgiving came & went with no great unction for us, tho if Dr. had have delayed two days longer we should been one more. Miss E's condi- n prevented our coming together as a Circle for service or sociability. Cole part of our colony had some simple reminders of the day in a meal r candypull with a few games for the sake of the younger member of our . We close this with warm, if not regretful, greetings for the last Xmas century, bespeaking for all a most happy entrance upon the first day of approaching twentieth century, Yours Most cordially, Watchman.

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JAN 19 1900
516

Bitlis, Kourdistan, December 5th, 1899.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

FEB 5 1900

Dear Dr. Barton;-

Erethe old year & century have slipped from our grasp it seems appropriate to have another word, more especially as yours of 6th ult. has just now come to hand; while at same time conditions about are such exaggerated reports may get abroad leading you & other friends to feel a bit anxious. Without attempting to make much reference to contents of yours I will say that we dwell in safety, tho our people feel somewhat apprehensive because of what is taking place here & there parts of which are referred to in the enclosed Notes. You do well to take little stock in what papers say as to Yildiz showing compassion towards the As, tho the insane course of the latter makes the problem all the more difficult. If concessions are realized for As outside we see no such in these parts, as we might describe however we live on in good hope for something better, as our local officials seem working for more safety, only that lack of funds makes it hard for them.

My thought respecting B's having a lady physician was that she might, tho not recognized by Govt., fill our bill for our Circle & the schools & orphanage-we keeping within our enclosure our own dispensary humble & unnamed, while her husband could be free for missionary work the same as Mr. Stapleton. For if we had the male physician he could only be that & nothing more, much as he might will otherwise, and so I should really have no associate in the field. Further than this I hardly need speak now, as I have before written on it. Being a family as we have been & are still with our one child with us, of course we ought to feel the need for doctor as much as lady teachers.

Of course you will feel anxious to hear as to Miss Ely. Dr. Ussher promised to give his report of our bill of health & especially of Miss Ely, but being on the rush it would n't be strange if it were n't made up till he gets round with that party to Van. We fear Miss E. will come back slowly to her former condition; indeed for some time, as I have hinted to you, the health of the two sisters has not been at all satisfactory, but we live on in hope.

But the Notes gives most of the news. I am sending it with what I wrote & sent you as to Mush trip, etc. to Dr. Burnham, St. Louis, to pass on, fearing mine

Fifth.Rourdistan.December 6th.1899.

Rev.James L.Barton,D.D.,

Dear Dr.Barton:-

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ped from our grasp it seems appropriate to have another word,more especially
as yours of 6th ult.has just now come to hand; while at same time conditions
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JAN 18 1900
FEB 5 1900
517

Bitlis, Kourdistan, via Cons'ple, Dec. 23d/99.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:

Yours of Nov. 15th, announcing the voting by the Comee. of $50 towards our Frank's expenses to Walla Walla, came to hand in due course, and made us very grateful for such kindness shown. It will give the dear boy no little satisfaction, for so near 20 as he is he feels he ought n't be resting on us so heavily, while his health precludes vigorous work of any kind. We are happy to report he is enough improved by the change of climate & conditions that he has taken up some study there, whether wisely or not we are not able to judge, tho my sister will be careful of him we are quite sure. Yes, it was quite right to have the money go to him direct, as he had borrowed of his sisters' allowance in Oberlin, so they took out of the amount we had sent on for him & sent him less by the loan.

As for these parts take no stock in newspaper report respecting less austerities for Xns. Just now I read from a near large village how people are beaten, have their doors broken down for entry of the tax-gatherers, are imprisoned in cold places this winter weather where if their friends secretly take them fire water is poured on it as if they must be left to freeze, in hopes poor ones lacking their daily bread would find money for taxes all the sooner. You will have heard of delays the Van party are meeting with in Erz. I have been interviewed today by a policeman asking facts as to Dr. Ussher. Thus it they keep on harrassing foreigners as well as natives, but He knows it all. Miss Ely is pulling up hill, but we must admit neither she nor her sister are in secure health so as to warrant the future. Would that doctor were here. We have the stronger reason in that the only doctor (native) we thought of turning to has just died. He saved me not a little from responsibility, as he had charge of orphans & sch. childrens' health-bill after I went to U.S. & since our return. Now it comes back on me as it was for the first nine months after our orphans were in hand-to visit the ailing children once a day.

Later. Thanks for report as to Appros. just at hand as we are closing letters

We are very thankful for what the Prud. Comee can vote even if it

can't be what is needed realizing the garment can
cut according to cloth in hand.

Our Cicli in usual health, save Miss Ely who
is improving. Hastily &c.

R. M. Cole.

Dec. 23, '19

BITLIS, TURKEY

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Jan. 10th, 1900.

DEAR PATRONS OF BITLIS AND MOUSH ORPHANAGES,

BIDDING adieu to the old year, it is time that we face the new. We had some of us given you a general glance at the dear children gathered here and at Moush, in all of which you have so much capital. Miss Charlotte Ely, who kindly took our place in superintendence of the boys' orphanage also on my leaving for America, and who sent a somewhat recent report, has since our return from summer encampment been serving by patient waiting in a long, prostrating turn of *grippe*, apparently, and is yet hardly equal to leaving her room, or seeing others than her nearest friends. Persons of such enthusiasm and self-forgetfulness cannot hold out always, though she has done so longer than we expected.

In October her sister and I visited Moush, and had a square look at the orphans and other matters in those parts. As we feared, the local Government began to look askance at our school, made up largely of the orphans we had transferred from Mogounk village, half an hour distant, but most of all upon the girls' part of it, which, as several times in the past, we thought to open in rented quarters outside. Within this branch of the school we hoped to gather a few of the many orphan girls as well, to be in charge of the faithful teacher who has been there some years. The latter question is still pending; the boys' part is running successfully, whilst we may start the other in some way if God wills it. The children are well, busy at study, and at the trades, bringing into good requisition the joiners' tools with which friends at 47 Victoria Street, London, kindly furnished us.

But to take up what is nearer at hand: As we look at the children within our enclosure, and observe their frolicsome ways from our window while the boys are playing, and perhaps follow them to the recitation room to note progress, would that we could send you a veritable photo in place of these poor pen-pictures.

With such a family of small children, gathered from such hardship and exposure, what could be expected but some disease? Satiation after hunger brings it. We have had small-pox and typhoid, though not many cases have proved fatal, and it is over now, and we are enjoying a time of health. The little infirmary I arranged over the boys' kitchen, with a door to serve the girls' part, has been very helpful indeed. We are sorry to have to report that the only native doctor we could turn to, Dr. Teghia, who studied awhile in London, years ago, has died of typhoid relapse; but our children were free from it so long before that he must have taken it in town. Passing responsibility for the health bill to him when I left for America, he relieved us of responsibility which we must now, *nolens volens*, resume again.

Though they have saluted our Christmas and New Year in songs and special addresses, it will be their New Year on the 13th, though their Christmas comes on the 18th. We are having new coats and some other articles made to cheer the boys; while a few books and some pictures, kindly supplied by the Religious Tract Society, London (which, but for postal defects, should have been here a year since), will serve a good purpose.

With grateful remembrances for the New Year,

R. M. COLE,
Missionary.

The following is a rather free translation of portions of letters from our orphans in Bitlis, two of the boys being from town and three from villages. Though we have sought to direct the children's eyes toward outside patrons, they fail sometimes, and seem to look to those nearer at hand; while two other things are noticeable, they think and speak of poor ones like themselves, who are still outside, and long that they may share these "glorious buildings" and privileges, as in their childish, enthusiastic way they put it, on account of not having seen better buildings themselves.

"Our kind-hearted, compassionate benefactors:—How very glad I am to be able to write you a few "lines expressive of my deep gratitude for your having rescued us from our dire distress and hardship. "You, as followers of Christ, taking us into this fold, within such 'glorious buildings,' have taught us to "be followers of Jesus, though formerly ignorant of these things; but now we shall not cease to pray "for those who from distant lands have stretched out their hands to succour us poor disconsolate ones. "What can we do in return for such kindness at your hands except pray that the Lord may reward you a "hundred-fold, and that we may be obedient pupils in this school, without distinction of race or sect. "Please pray that I make greater progress in all.—Setrag Asdvadour."

Krikor Muggerditchian, after a similar prelude, says:—"Oh, how I rejoice for the great kindness I "have received from you, and that now I may write with my own hand and tell you so. When I entered "this orphanage I knew not how to read or write, or what Christianity meant; but, thank God, I know "them all now, and shall not cease to thank God and pray for you, dear ones, who took us under this roof "and care for us like parents."

Gargis Markarian says:—"How very thankful I am for having been taken under this roof, and for "being so kindly treated here, where I learn God's law. Our prayer is for you all, that God may enable "you to free other poor, wandering ones like us; and may you be a support to such as we. May we "send warm salutations to you all, whether you may be adults or children."

Senasar Avedisian says:—"Most grateful am I that you have freed us from orphanhood, you "who stretch out your hands to us from the distant land. I am very thankful that you took pity on "me and received me into this happiness. I pray that God may add to the number of such kind helpers as "you. May you have health and long life, is all I, a little boy, can say to express gratitude."

Arsen Khachigian says: "I am so thankful that you from the far-off land have a care for us "poor orphans, in the hope that we may grow up to be useful to our people and land. With grateful heart "I pray that God reward your kindness to us, and increase the number of such benefactors, so that other "disconsolate orphans like ourselves may be received into this 'glorious' place, and like us enjoy "the privileges and happiness here; for they are strangers to the good things of God's Word. It is "through your kindness that we are freed from our slavish, unbearable condition. Hence all of us "orphans thank not only God, but also you, our kind benefactors."

From BITLIS ORPHANS.

Mrs. L. B. Cole
518 — 532

"S. S." Servia, July 6, 1891

Rev. Judson Smith D. D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

You will be somewhat surprised to learn that we are on our backward track - not because we were sick at heart or wanted to do more honor to native land soon but because the machinery of this splendid boat has broken down so that the grand old engines came to a dead halt. All day Saty we were some four in the P. M. we were making good time - some 16 knots - and all looked so hopeful for a quick passage till this accident came in. Still there is much to cheer notwithstanding the disappointment at the delay and turning back. The sea was calm, weather delightful, and such a splendid company of passengers I have never before seen on one of these Atlantic steamers. There are about 100 teachers, some than a dozen clergymen, - about 500 cabin passengers in all - probably more than 1500, including Intermediate, steerage & crew.

All Saty night and till nine a. m. crew & passengers were watching for some ocean craft to come to our relief, signals of distress

meanwhile being sent up. Three steamers finally hove in sight and ~~hove to~~ for assistance. One of them - a French - was chartered to take us in tow for N.Y. and she is pulling us in at a very slow rate - about 6 knots. It is impossible to tell what arrangements the Company will make for us to resume our journey but when made I shall let you know. Meanwhile we are well and nicely cared for though with such a crowd on board the poor stewards are hard worked indeed. We shall doubtless be delayed some days in N.Y. & whether they will be able to fix this steamer up so as to send us on by it, pass us over to another or refund money remains to be seen. Old travelers as we are there has been no strain upon our nervous system though some, especially ladies - suffered not a little, fearing the fate of the vessel might be much worse than the officers admitted. When an order was given to man the boats and two life-boats were ~~pushed~~ swung out over the waters quite a wave of excitement ran through the passengers, but they soon learned that this only meant having them ready to let down men & communicate with ocean crafts that might come in sight, and all became quiet.

London July 22 - 1891

As Mr Cole's hands are so full attending to the wants of all our party I will add a postscript to his letter. All the steamers were so crowded that week we returned to New York for a time it seemed among the impossibilities our securing a passage without paying an exhitant price. The Etruria was full & Mr C had to turn away from all the first class steamers unsuccessful; but when all avenues seemed closed the way was opened for us in an unexpected manner, & accomodations were secured on the Etruria for all our party - better even than on the ill-fated Servia at the same rates precisely. We left New York the second time on the 11th reaching Liverpool Saturday the 18th. At nine o'clock all our baggage was through the custom house & Mr C was one of the first of the passengers to leave, but it was too late for us to reach London. We ladies had been quietly resting at a hotel all the time Mr C. was waiting at the custom house. Monday we came

on here, and shall leave in the morning for Marseilles via Paris - The three ladies will go via Vienna to accomodate Miss Cole who for various reasons feels she must take that route. It would increase the expense considerably were we to take that route, and Miss Cole thinks it is perfectly right for we to allow them to go on alone - If she felt unwilling to take that route without a gentleman escort we should waive our personal preferences & go with her - The expense is the chief reason that deters us - We have thoroughly enjoyed the three ladies and it is a real disappointment not to have their company all the way to Constantinople - They have been most obliging and helpful and grateful for all my husbands care -

Very hastily but cordially
(Mrs R. M.) L. B. Cole

S. S. Servia Aug. 6, 1895
Filed Aug. 25

Mrs. L. J. Cole
Oberlin, O. Dec. 26, 96

520

Dear Mr. Cole:

Thank you
for forwarding letters
from Mr Cole. I appreciate
the kindness, and the
tone of sympathy and chur
-ch have received. I must add
I want to speak to you about
young Armenian merchant
who escaped from the massacre
in Constantinople the other, the
kindness of Mr Knapp. This
young man Mumfry Goolgian
has reached Phila, but
having no language fails to
get any work. He writes me

Oberlin, Ohio
Dec. 26, 1896

Yours truly
D. L. Cole
(Mrs R. M.)

n great distress begging me
find work for him - Until
learn some English no one
en employ him - I wondered
if you or Mr Allen or any of
the Armenian speaking Indian -
ice could give him work -
e is from our Bible conge-
ation, & was a person of means
until the three shops his father
owned were completely burnt
t Oct 25th 95 - He was determined
not be a pensioner on charity and
hony to the wishes of his father
decided to come, under our
rotection, as far as lay in his le to
y goods - Finally his father gave
ny unwilling consent - The wedding
fit of his young bride was sold &
ything possible turned into money
enable him to buy goods enough
start up again in trade -

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-30-96
Ans'd

He lost all his goods, his
money, & come very near los
his life in Temple -
If he could only be helped
on to Fresno Cal, he might
be able to do something there -
I was very glad to know you
had sent on $100 to Billie for
general missy work - & the $200
for the orphans - What an
amount of misery those sum
will relieve!
The Oberlin people have wel
me most cordially - The chil
have all been in School, h
and happy - I confess to be
homesick, tho. I know the child
need me there first months in
getting settled into American life
I can see I'm not so brave as my husband

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-2-97
Ans'd 3

521

Mrs. R. M. Cole,

Judson Cottage
Oberlin Ohio
Feb. 1-1897

Dear Dr Barbour:-

I have just
ed a postal from Mr Knapp
ying news of the 14th from
nstantinople was that
Cole had been very
, but was better.
e you any later word
m my husband?
you have will you
ndly let me know as
n as possible-
my last letter Mr C. spoke
iling serious ill with

Typhoid fever. That
disease proves fatal
so many that the
natives are more afr
of it than small pox o
any other disease. The
is no physician in Bu
in whom we have any
confidence.

Hastily
(Mrs R. M) L. C. Le

Mrs. R. M. Cole,
J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-15-97
Ans'd 2-8-

522

Your kind letter of Mr. C. Cole

Oberlin Ohio
Feb 13. 1897

Dear Dr Barton:-

Thank you
ry much for yours of
eb 10th. I have appreciated
our sympathy in this
ere trial.
his was a letter, in my
ue to dictate our handwriting,
ime: it quite overcome me
d, for we had feared more
an we dared express to this -
t was dated Jan 7 - 9th. It was
wly convalescing. He was
n carrying such heavy burdens
t last - this year that I feared
had no reserve strength to

all back on. Those five months
and more spent at Saxonburg
made heavy demands on
his strength. I have felt for
some time that he needed to
get away from Bittie for a
rest and change; felt that a
few months of rest would add
years to his life. But I knew
he could not be persuaded
to leave when he seems so
imperatively needed. I have
just read a letter to Thomas Miller
this daughter saying Mr C. must
leave Bittie as soon as he
become strength sufficiently to
begin the journey.
If I could only be there now
to help him! In my joy to know
he is convalescing I can not forget
the Saxonburg people, who will be so
cast down at his leaving them.

Mrs. R. M. Cole,

523

J. L. B.
Rec'd. 3-26-97
Ans'd 27

Oberlin Ohio
Mar. 25-1897

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
Dear Dr. Barton:-
Yours of Mar. 9th
as rec'd. I have had no
etter from my husband
r upwards of three weeks-
his makes me anxious but
e has had a relapse & it
ems foolish to write when we
hold a pen. As there is no
ter from Mr Baird to his
ldren all this time it may
the fault of the Turkish
t- My last letter from Mr Cole
e dated Jan. 31.
o no one is found to take

2/

Mr C's place while he com
come here for rest, and he fe
it duty to remain at B. as
he expressed it in his last
letter, then I want to return
to Battie as speedily as possib
I have written him to this effe
His decision does not surpri
one, knowing how he always
puts the work first — his ow
interests merely secondary
But I question the wisdom of
remaining there until he has
gone away out of sight an
hearing of all that misery an
ugomed his strength. But if
does remain I am sure he ou
one there. It has been very, ve
hard for me to remain away
my home, last my husband sick
and break down altogether witho

ome care, and some one
reminded him that sometime
reminded to rest - Think I can
on his work and lighten
e burdens. We have always
in such comrades working
gether -
I have promised to attend
e State Meeting of the W. M. B. I. -
Minneapolis April 14th - thence
Northfield Minn - then to the
te Meeting in Ottawa Kan - May 5 -
y 12. Clinton Conference - I feel
mmed necessary to cancel
y of these appointments it should
expedily in order to give them
e to find some one else -
resume there will be no party

4

going to Constantinople before summer - The Parmelee expect to sail in Aug. I believe I should not wish to go alone but with some of these parties

Sincerely yours

(Mrs Re. M) L. C. Cole

Oberlin Ohio
April 29, 18

J. L. Barton D. D.

~~Dear~~ Dr. Barton:-

J. B. B.
Rec'd 5-3-97
Ans'd 5
524

I found your card of April 27th when I returned from Minnesota last evening.

I hope Mr Rehdorn can go to Billie for a time, fulfill the Harpoot friends consent to such an arrangement - I fear they will not. But if they do and the Missus ely return as per present plan, I am wondering if then it would be possible for Mr Cole to take a short leave of absence - realize that Mr H. could

Mrs. R. M. Cole

Shall send to Mr. Cole.

Respectfully yours
Secretary.

not do much work, but his presence there at B. might do worth a great deal to the Mission Ely, for they can not remain there alone & in a sense, the station, tho, not in any sense a complete one, should be held.

My time in Minnesota was briefer than I intended on account of my youngest daughter's illness. She is improving, & now for several days has had no chill nor fever. I found the Minnesota people all alive with interest in Missions, especially Turkey. They kept me speaking for continuously that I find myself pretty tired, but there was so responsive I felt richly repaid for all the effort on my part.

Thos. L. C. Cole

525 S

J. L. B.
Rec'd 6-1-97
Ans'd 1

Letter taken by my youngest daughter with permission of wife, and she seemed greatly pleased by the change.

Oberlin Ohio
May 27-1897

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your written just before leaving for the West was rec'd as I was starting out to attend meetings in a distant part of this state - from a letter Dr. Daniels wrote my son Fred, in a manner as if he Fred wrote you, I fear you must have rec'd the impression, that he couldn't have meant to convey, of blaming you because some one had not been sent to Billie to relieve Mr. Cole - I don't know what my son wrote; but I read Dr. Daniels reply - I am sure

you hardly need me to say
that neither Mr C. nor I have
cherished any such feeling.
It is now two days since
my last word from Billie -
Mr C. said in that letter that
it had been two months or
more since any word from
the Rooms, and he felt
sure some of your letters
must have been lost - He
was having considerable trouble
on account of a young man
seemingly insane - determined
either to marry or kill one of
the school girls - or if he
could compass neither fire
the school building. No one but
Mr C. could influence him at all
, and of course he can not stand
guard on him all the time -
I am going to Cleveland for
the Sabbath, then to Painesville, Lake Erie
Seminary. L. C. Cole -

Mrs. R. M. Cole

526

Lake Breeze Ohio
Aug 14. 1897

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your of Aug. 10th rec'd
J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-17-97
Ans'd 9-3
reached me last evening
thank you for sending my
husband's letter to Mr. Ashdown
Mr. Crowford's letter concerning
Mr. Ashdown being side-tracked
at Tribizond, or so near their
summer resort, for fear or
it might disturb him very
much. Perhaps, however, he may
be able to escort the Missionary on
that long or long journey
and thus save any other
missionary having to leave his
work to accompany them-

(Mrs. R. M.) E. C. Cole

I am looking for the Misses
Ely any day now. They are
going to visit their nephew
at Madison - Dr. Richard Ely
thence to Oberlin or rather
this place 18 miles from
O. where the Tank Town
people are summering.
I found myself much
exhausted from the Spring
campaign among the churches
and planned to rest here
after the meet-te season
was finished. But in this
the churches in some places
expect to have one "missy
Sunday" - in place of the
usual morning sermon -
I could hardly refuse
the importunate appeals -
only keeping out Sabbath when
I expect my husband's sister here

I feel more & more strongly
the need of getting the men
in our churches interested
in the Foreign Missy work. I am
really surprised to find so
general an opinion that Turkey
has in such a state that
it wasn't much use to try
to keep the work along. "Women
don't realized before that "the
cut down" so crippled "the
workers and the work" is so
often said to me by the brethren
in the churches. I wish every
church could be visited by one
of you Secretaries or different
missionaries from the field,
but that I know is impossible.
In reference to my husband.
Dr. Thom has written several
letters strongly urging him to leave
Smyrna now, when he feels confident

change and rest till restore
his health. I have greater
confidence in my husband's
judgment of his strength than
even Dr. Thorne. I have still a
doubt that Mr Cole would sail
sooner if he came now than
to delay longer; yet I know he
does not intend to hazard
his health by remaining too
long. In his zeal for the work
so dear to him, he may overrate
his strength. I feel strongly that
he ought not to risk another
winter there before coming here. If
he does decide to remain I must
return. Knowing that he needed
my care has made it exceedingly
hard for me to remain patiently the

Mrs. R. M. Cole,

527

9-22-97
10-9

Judson Cottage
Oberlin O
Sep. 27. 1897

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
Dear Dr. Barton:-
Thank you very much for your two letters of Sep. 2nd & 24th. I am rejoiced to know that Mrs Chambers can return to Erzroom even for a time. That Erzroom work lies very near my heart for it was there we began our missy life, and five of our children are buried there. No other part of Turkey can seem quite like Erzroom to us.

2/2 nyone, too, that the Miss
Elyhorn started for Bitl
Miss Charlotte seemed so
me wonderfully improved
from what she was last
Spring, when I met her
at Minneapolis - Then sh
was in no condition to retur
but now I think she is
I hope Mr Knapp can
can be tried at Constan
If not, I greatly fear
in coming years many of the
missionaries in Turkey mo
hour to suffer unjustly -
one man can be deported
why not another who does
not happen to please
the Turkish officials -
I intended to write you
immediately on receipt of yo
of Sep. 3rd and tell you of the

Miss Ely's visit here and
my impression that Miss
Ely was able now to return;
but Mamie - my youngest -
met with an accident
which has prevented my
doing much but caring for
her - The summer by the
lake was of great benefit
removed nearly all the
ill effects of a hooping cough -
Soon after our return a
playmate invited her to
take a ride on her bicycle -
The electric railroad is
newly built front of Tonk
Home - On either side is piled
up dirt, so the children skip

4/ over the track. Mamie was running when she fell & struck her left knee on the iron, cutting a gash in her knee. Tho. it hurt bad she went on & had the ride on the bicycle. The next morning her knee had to be put in a cast, & in a few days longer. She now walks around the room on her crutches, but the swelling hasn't wholly gone down. She lost a year's lessons, but cannot go back to school for several weeks yet. I have had to postpone all engagements to speak & remain with her. I did, however, leave her last Friday afternoon, after her sister came from school, and attended the Thank Offering meeting at Plymouth church Cleveland & returning the next morning.

d. The Dr. says that Mamie
me was a most serious hurt,
ut she is doing just as well
s possible and he confidently
ects her to recover with no
ed effects whatever -
ke, I think my husband
s growing stronger - Surely
he Lord has helped and
essed him in his arduous
ork. I rec'd a photograph
a company of his orphans
aken on the roof of our house
y an English tourist, who
veloped the picture after
eaching England - I find my
lossom picture sells quite
d attract wherever I take them -

6/2 have written, as you request, the date of birth of each of the four children with me - You said "all your children" - but I do not suppose you wished Fred who is in New York - He is twenty five years old -
I have spoken in five of the Cleveland churches, and find in all a lively interest in Turkey Missions -

Cordially yours
(Mrs R. M) L. C. Cole

Mrs. R. M. Cole, St
528

L. B.
Rec'd 2-7-98
Ans'd

Judson Cottage
Oberlin O.
Feb 5. 1898

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
Dear Dr. Barton:-
Thank you very much for yours of Jan. 5th and Feb. 2nd.
I assure you I appreciate your words of sympathy.
I am steadily, tho. rather slowly improving.
I hoped to walk out doors to-day, but the fast-falling snow prevents.
I had two letters from Mr. Cole last evening.
Mr & Mrs. Ashdown reached

Bitlis Dec. 25 and ate a
X'mas dinner with the En
Consul in the evening.
Dec. 28. The Misses Ely arrived
wearied from the hard journ
from Erz. to B. at that seas
of the year. It is very hard
for the Misses E. to consent to
Mr. C's coming; but they are
bravely trying to bid him
God speed. If my husband
did not feel it imperative to
rest awhile he would not
on any account leave Bitlis
at the present time.
He was going to Moush to
arrange matters there, and thence
about the middle of Feb. he
could leave. He was rejoicing in
the release of the teacher & preacher
who have been in prison so long.

Cordially yours
(Mrs. R. M) L. C. Cole

Mrs. R. M. Cole, 529 St

3-26-98

Judson Cottage
Oberlin Ohio
Mar. 24-1898

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

The message you forwarded to me yesterday gave me great joy, and I want to thank you for sending it to me. A week to-day I rec'd my first letter from Mr. Cole after he left Billie; then Monday came his letter from Alepo, and yesterday came announcing his being London - Quite different from the slow pace we made the journey nearly two years ago!

My heart is full of thanksgiving to-day.

Yours truly

(Mrs. R. M.) L. C. Cole

Mrs. R. M. Cole, 530

Rec'd 9-27-98

Oberlin Ohio
Sep. 24. 1898

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton,—

Your invitation to attend the board meeting at Grand Rapids finds me most happily engaged & have had that pleasure since the board meeting in Chicago in 1875.

Mr. Cole expected to reach Walla Walla Washington this morning. He hopes to be in Grand Rapids some time Tuesday.

Gratefully
Mrs. R. M. L. C. Cole

Mrs. L. L. Cole

Bitlis, June 12. 1899.

JUL 10 1899

JUL 28 1899

Bitlis, June 12. 1899.

r. J. L. Barton D. D.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Mr. Cole hoped
write to you before going to Mosul,
t work crowded all the time, and
unfinished work was passed
r to my hands-
ince Mr. C. left, two of our agents
the Relief Work have been thrust
to prison - The Arachmoot sent
r me to the Pasha and after
hree or four days obtained their
lease - One was sent back here
om the province under escort,
. he had a gablich with him and
ermission from this Pasha to
tend to the distribution in that
rovince - His offence seems to have
en on a point of etiquette, failing

to call to pay his respects to the
mulaseif of that region!
The other agent was not entrusted
with money, for it was decided that no
it be given to six formerly plundered
villages. "Because you have not brought
money it shows you are here for a
different purpose," said the local
authority. And tho. he, too, had a
goblich & papers from the Pasha
he was marched back here & thrown
into prison. Every day now counts in
the dead-doing time — in a little late
the time will be passed, so say the farmers.
I am inclined to think the officials
have this, too, in mind, as they are
more opposed to our giving aid than
money or bread. The reason is not far
to seek surely —
Miss Mary Ely has been suffering from
a malarious attack the past ten days — She
looks better this morning, but is still very weak
indeed. We hope to hear Mr. Barton is improving.
Most sincerely yours
(Mrs R. M.) L. C. Cole

DEC 16 1899

DEC 19 1899

Bitlis,

Turkey in Asia.

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D. Nov. 14. 1899.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Mr. Cole asks me to add a few words to what "Watchman" has written, because he is so hurried he cannot get around to it. We have been very anxious about Miss C. Ely the last week. Her symptoms pointed to nervous prostration, and was so called by Dr. Leghia, the Armenian doctor. She grew weaker day by day and could take almost no nourishment, nor did the snatches of sleep near morning seem to refresh her. Finally Miss Mary Ely became so alarmed she asked Mr. Cole to telegraph to Dr. Usher to come. Yesterday Dr. Leghia said there was congestion of the brain, and spoke most discouragingly. We hesitated about calling Dr. Usher as he was not well himself when he left here for Tani but he wrote me Dr. Raynolds did not feel able to make the journey to Erzroom to bring on the two English women, who come to help in the orphanage and possibly Miss Barrows, as she evidently should

e to make that journey, and if so should
t me again. We hope in that case this call
not seriously inconvenience him. But Miss Ely
need a physician's care sometime, as fear-
is exceedingly nervous, so much so that we
e feared for her reason. No one is allowed
her save the watchers and Mr. Cole.
had a restful summer and I think had
en no school duties when she so suddenly
passed. Her sister is so frail that she can
endure this strain long. Mr. Cole is the
one of our station who is at home in the
room. Miss Ely feels great confidence in
skill as a nurse, and will listen to him and
take nourishment when others fail to persuade
Mr. Cole says Miss Ely is no worse today,
then is she any better. We all long to have
Mesher arrive. These nervous diseases are
difficult to deal with. Yes, there is one better
mptom, the pupil of her eye is not so dilated
y as yesterday.
city seems quiet after the great excitement.
ex President's widow is a prisoner. She was said to equal
famous husband in bravery, and was equally feared.
Yours truly, L. G. Cole.

Pittsburg, Nov. 14, '99